

# CIRCLE



*The Association of Anglican Women*

Volume 48, No. 5. May 2016



Theme for 2015-18:

*Grow in Discipleship, Dreams, Dedication*

*The Aims of AAW:*

- to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church
- to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*Diocesan AAW Group and Members'*

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

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

**PHOTOS:** Email (*attached as a "FILE", not as a "picture"*) original digital photos (*high resolution jpg files*) to *marilynjsim@gmail.com* or post commercially produced glossy prints, to 7 Glenleigh Place, Mosgiel, 9024.

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Copy deadline for next issue:

**30 June**

*Please help us by adhering to this deadline!*

# FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends

Where has this year gone? It is hard to believe that we are nearly half way through yet another year. At our March NZ AAW Executive meeting, which we held at the Conference Centre at Wellington Airport, along with all the usual business we had a discussion on the Future of AAW. The results from this discussion can be found further on in this magazine. Please give a lot of thought to these. We hope AAW will grow from now on.



We have a new Provincial President for 2016 – 2019. She will introduce herself in the August Circle Magazine. It is difficult to believe that my three year term in this office is nearly over. By the time you read this I will have made my visit to the Nelson Diocese. I am to speak after their AGM and again at an Area Day in Nelson and in Greymouth. I am looking forward to meeting the AAW ladies in this part of the country.

One thing I have had to do has been to apply for my first ever New Zealand Passport because I, along with 13 other ladies from throughout the country, am heading over to meet the ladies in Tonga in July.

Whilst I do not have too much to report this time round, come the August Circle I will have quite a bit to write about.

Take care as winter approaches.

*Margaret*

# EDITOR'S NOTES

Easter is over, Jesus has risen and Pentecost will soon be upon us – the time when the Holy Spirit entered the lives of the followers of Jesus. As I read through the articles for this magazine I was struck by the fact that most are about new beginnings. Annual meetings have taken place and new committees have been installed ready to become involved in their groups and communities. May the gift of the Holy Spirit be among us.

Our sisters in the Pacific had just begun trying to resume some sort of normality after cyclone Winston devastated their homes, families and livelihoods when today cyclone Zena caused more disruption to their lives. Fiji has been particularly hard hit (but it is not alone) other Pacific nations have been caught in the wake of these two cyclones. Our sisters and their families need our prayers as well as our practical help. What can we do to help? There is a need for financial help, for food, clothing and shelter. As we thank God for the gifts we have received may we remember to share those gifts with others.

*Greetings*

*Marjorie*



*Pentecost Banner,  
St Luke's Church, Mosgiel*



# FUTURE OF AAW

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## Future of AAW Questionnaire

*At our last meeting, your Exec was heartened members wish the AAW to continue as a vital part of the church's mission.*

We discussed the way forward for groups and came up with some suggestions:

Make sure the parish knows about AAW - share snippets of what's happening in our own groups or the wider organisation at notice time at services for example.

Be enthusiastic about the Aims when speaking with parish members.

Get something positive about AAW on the parish website to publicise activities and to help younger women to catch the vision. Then they can decide their own approach to AAW and activities.

Be open when sharing re AAW Projects/involvement to parish, on own face book pages, Charter face book, AAW face book etc.

Put the emphasis and energy on the main event at meetings – put business matters to the edge. It can be effective leading off with your speaker or activity

and doing the Minutes etc at the end.

Give enthusiastic reports on Overseas & Outreach and Social Concerns at meetings. Choose an item and make it memorable!

Encourage each other in outward facing activities – group to group, as well as O&O and Social Concerns.

Ask people personally – not everyone will want to join but don't be put off – try someone else.

Wear your AAW badge – this can be a conversation starter. Have a positive response ready, if someone asks about the badge e.g. <We support women and children, clean water, anti-violence against women, school lunches> – something you know AAW supports either as a whole or in your own group.

See if you can get something interesting in your local paper – e.g. Tongan water tanks, school lunches etc etc.

Plan ahead – have a good speaker and invite others to come along – make them welcome.

***We're a dynamic, relevant and effective organisation - let's tell the world!***

# SOCIAL CONCERNS

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'Slipping the Moorings' is a memoir by Bishop Richard Randerson, which weaves together faith, justice, ethics and community. As Rod Oram notes, Bishop 'Richard has been in the thick of many ... defining battles ... His memoir is not just the story of one man's work in Church and Society through decades of turbulent change. It is a font of wisdom and practical advice for those seeking God's help today on society's even greater challenges.' As you can imagine, 'Slipping the Moorings' makes excellent reading and is full of the challenge of making sure the Church has 'a voice in the public square.'

At a workshop run in connection with the book, Bishop Richard led discussions aimed at renewing the momentum gained by Richard Davis's 2014 report 'Making a Difference'. We discussed the current social issues in our own area, which will be familiar across much of the country: the downturn that has affected the farming community and the flow-on effects of that in loss to communities, mental health, loss of jobs and lack of stability – some local schools have a 30-40% turnover of students each year. Stress is bad for relationships, both in fami-

lies and at work. It also means there are fewer volunteers and thus models of volunteering. Negative forces also include big companies and banks making meeting financial commitments harder and sometimes requiring workers to live away from their work communities to stop local involvement and also the attitude of the media in beating up negative stories.

We considered how the Church is having/ can have a say in all this? One parish is planning a forum on local issues with an article to be written.

Another had a service for the start of the farming year, which acknowledged the hardness of the times. Parishes and individuals are involved in a wide array of social programmes to support people from birth onwards.

Bishop Richard drew our attention to some resources we could use. 'Reaching Out in Loving Service – Not Rocket Science' is a tool (from Perth) to assist building links. It encourages parishes to look at their resources (human and physical) and current ministries; then to look at what the unmet needs of the local community are and, in consultation with others, to design projects that will use the Church's resources to the best effect. He commented that the Church tends to be very good at



providing social services for people and we do need food banks, transport for people, drop-in centres and the like. There are also other possibilities and ways of working that both help and empower others. For instance, the creation of food co-ops or community gardens gives those helped more participation. We can raise awareness of issues and gather social service agencies to analyse what needs to be done. We can work for social justice by lobbying for needed policy changes and getting involved with what is planned locally. The sort of help to give is determined by people's needs: food, water and shelter first, then safety, then community involvement, then self-esteem and feeling fulfilled. Bishop Richard spoke of A Theology of Well-Being underpinning our work. The Bible is a very deep resource covering everything – there is no place so dark, that the Bible has nothing to say about it. It's important, though, that we contextualize and communicate the hope in the good news, so that people don't get caught up in what they think the Church has said or stands for. 'The Spirit Level' by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett is a book, which spells out clearly why more equal societies almost always do better

on every measure from life expectancy to trust, from social mobility to imprisonment. New Zealand used to pride itself on being egalitarian but is now quite low in the world list. On 2011 figures, the richest 20% are now about 6.5 times richer than the poorest 20% here. Japan leads the way at 3.5 times and Singapore is at the bottom of the scale at 9.75 times. This continues to be an overarching issue. Nine years after Ruth Richardson's budget of 1984, Church leaders put out a statement on the enduring principles of social justice. They are to:

- respect human dignity with its rights and responsibilities;
- live in solidarity with others, aware of our interdependence;
- seek the well-being of all;
- value work and creativity;
- give priority to the needs of the poor

Bishop Richard finished by encouraging us to prioritise the needs we see by their importance and by what the 'near edge' is (i. e. the part that we can reach and do something about) and to link with others as we work to make our communities better places.

*Pip Harrison*

Greetings to all members. I trust this finds you warm and well as winter approaches. Our Mission Partners live in places where the climate is very different from our own. Cambodia seems to be the theme for this month and our Mission Partners there have some interesting and inspiring stories to relate:

The first is from Anne McCormick. Anne and Anthony McCormick are involved in Community Ministry in Cambodia: "One

Friday morning while I was on the balcony of our house doing my usual daily Bible reading, I heard a commotion below and realised that the rubbish truck was doing the rounds. As I watched, I was surprised to see that one of the workers on the truck was a woman and that her two children were accompanying her on the rounds. What a life for those poor children, who looked so bedraggled in their torn, dirty clothes with no shoes. I determined to do something to help them and, next time they appeared, took some food to them which was devoured eagerly – obviously they had not had anything to eat that day.

A mere drop in the bucket in terms of their need, but at least I did what I could.

And they all, hospital patients and others, without exception, said "arkoon tom tom" – thank you very much. I had the words of Jesus from Matthew 25:40 resonating in my brain for quite

*... the needs here  
can sometimes feel  
overwhelming*

some time. "When you do it for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it for me."

Although the needs here can

sometimes feel overwhelming, as virtually all the hospital patients have a sad story, the grateful thanks I receive for the small encouragements I am able to bring them make my role worthwhile and very rewarding. What a privilege it is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this dark and needy place where many are embraced by helplessness and hopelessness. My prayer is that God will continue to give me a heart of compassion and resolve to make a small difference in the lives of the poor and needy in the best way I can."

Anne goes on to write about her husband Anthony's work: "In the same time-frame that I have set up



my programme, Anthony has set up a social work department at the hospital, starting from scratch, in an environment where social work is not well understood. This is typical of Cambodia, not just the hospital. He began in October last year, working alone initially, developing policies and writing procedures to set the department on a good footing of a professional standard. A translator joined him and

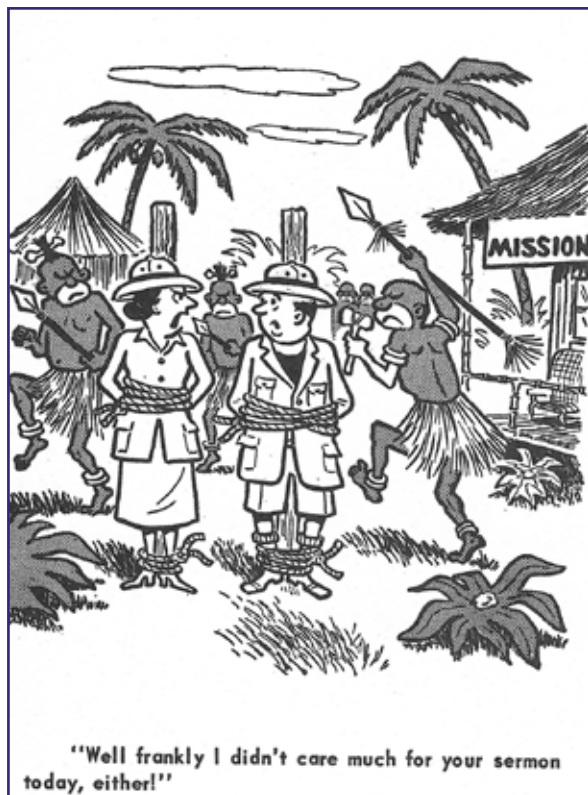
together they worked on making all documentation bilingual, as there are very little social work resources in the Khmer language.

This is due to the fact that it is a relatively new discipline in Cambodia, the first students graduated from a degree programme run in Phnom

Penh in conjunction with a Washington university as recently as 2012. Two fulltime social workers and a counselor have since joined the team. They have found, as they visit patients in the wards, that there is a huge need for their services. The lives of so many at the hospital have changed forever because of the accidents or incidents that they have experienced. The social work team works to try to help them

overcome the difficulties and challenges they will face in their daily lives when they are discharged from the hospital.”

Phil and Becky Sussex are our other Mission Partners from Cambodia. Here Phil writes about his prison ministry: “Some people



talk about poverty in terms of a lack of options. Using that criteria, prisoners in Cambodia are surely some of the poorest of all, lacking even the option of a traditional dentist pulling out a painful tooth. Instead, they normally have no choice but to put up with an acutely abscessing tooth until it settles, hoping that the infection won't spread into the upper face or neck with potentially fatal consequences. For the past three years the Christian organisation I partner with (the only provider of dental care for prisoners) has been locked-out as they attempted to re-negotiate a new MoU with the government. After much prayer and many attempts, I am happy to report that three weeks ago we were finally allowed back into the main men's prison. Each Wednesday I take a team of 10 students to fill and extract teeth as we rotate every few months around Phnom Penh's main prisons. Operating in high temperatures, we have already been struggling with equipment breakdowns and push-back from guards keen on wielding their power. However, we have seen God at work with positive outcomes in spite of the conditions. One man's abscess had spread into his cheek and was serious enough to

require incision, drainage and antibiotics, for which he was really grateful. Our team values your ongoing prayer.”

Please pray for Phil and Becky Sussex, and for Anne and Anthony McCormick as they all continue their wonderful work in Cambodia, and for our other Mission Partners as well.

I would like to finish up by reminding you about our project, Water Tanks for Tonga. In July a team of AAW women will be travelling to Tonga and we hope to have some money raised by then. Water is vital in Tonga where there are no rivers. In times of emergency water is always a primary concern. We are hoping to raise money towards the construction of five water tanks in Tonga. The cost of these is \$5,000 each (installed) which will be over and above our normal commitments. In previous years AAW raised money for several water tanks in Fiji. It is good to be able to help our Pacific Island neighbours with vital projects such as these.

I would like to end with a wish for all mothers, that your Mother's Day will be (or has been!) extra special. God bless you,

Shelley Vette  
AAW Overseas and Outreach Convenor



# MOTHERS' UNION

A chapter closed in Mothers' Union history with the death of the Reverend Toe'umu Fineanangofo. When in 1965 MU in New Zealand took over responsibility for the work in Melanesia and Polynesia, the bishop in Polynesia had already found a young Tongan woman suitable for training as a Mothers' Union worker in the diocese. Toe'umu first went to St Christopher's College in Melbourne for theological training and then enrolled as a student at the South Pacific Commission in Suva for a year's training in Home Economics. After a few months' work experience and a holiday in Tonga the Bishop suggested Toe'umu visit New Zealand in 1967 to see MU in action, particularly the work among Maori in Northland. It took time for the clergy to accept the idea of a paid worker willing and available to work in their parishes but a major factor in her acceptance (and that of later women workers in Fiji) was for Bishop Jabez Bryce to have her attached directly to his staff and work under his direction. Toe'umu was also the first Tongan woman to be ordained to the priesthood, a role she continued to the end. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

During March 14-24 the Mothers' Union was present at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of

Women in New York. The main theme was women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. MU submitted a 3 page statement emphasising the importance of linking the empowerment of women to the new SDG agenda more thoroughly than it was to the Millennium Development Goals. In the statement it mentioned that MU members across the world identified the key barriers to women's empowerment in their communities as: 1) inequality of power between women and men, and women's lack of agency; 2) all forms of violence and abuse against women and girls; and 3) the unequal innate, social and economic value given to women and girls and the role they typically carry out, especially unpaid caring and domestic responsibilities. MU pointed out there are more robust international agreements on gender equality such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which have not yet been fully implemented across the world. SDG should be treated as but one instrument among many furthering gender equality and the empowerment of women but must not supercede others as there is risk of regressing on the progress that has already been made.

*Rosemary Bent*

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## - Polynesia

### DIOCESE OF POLYNESIA ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN

*"In Christ We Move Together"*

**Greetings in the Name of Our Lord from the Women of the Diocese of Polynesia *Talofa lava, Bula Vinaka, Namaste and Malo e Lelei***

***"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it"***



I am once again grateful for the confidence and trust that the women of Polynesia entrust upon me to be elected as their AAW Diocesan President for Polynesia

at the 15<sup>th</sup> AAW BGM held December 2015 in Lautoka, Fiji. I am also thankful to the Vicar and the congregations of St. Peters Church, Lautoka for hosting us and the installation message to the new members.

It was clear from the 15<sup>th</sup> BGM that the women of Polynesia are looking at developing strategies that will enhance their respective diverse cultures within their parishes and units, ability to strengthen and uphold the AAW aims in the era of fast technology and chal-

lenges of development and climate change. In order to do this the women identified the following areas that need to be addressed throughout this term:

Revisit AAW Aims and their applications towards Our Role in the DOP "KORO" hence revamp NEW approaches that will:

- Strengthen communication and collaboration of the executive members within the DOP KORO
- Encourage and Strengthen communications within and outside the Diocese
- Strengthen relationships with Our Partners
- Build the capacity of members to prepare for Leadership Roles
- Establish Young Mothers' Groups to involve younger members of AAW
- Seek ways to secure funding base
- Consider the Status of Mothers' Union in DOP
- Increase members of DOP AAW



This is the task that the executive must seek to address and desperately needs prayers for motivation, strength and assistance. The year has started with challenges since we have been visited with strong winds and hurricane Winston. Some of our small Islands and especially Fiji were badly affected and are still in the wake of coping with these natural disasters. May our prayers and assistance reach out to our sisters and the children of these areas.

However the Women of Polynesia Pledge to remain dedicated and committed to their roles in both family and church with the help of all our sisters in Christ who are valued members of AAW.

*Fakafeta'i ki he 'Otua ,*  
*Praise be to God* for Women of Faith like you all, for working tirelessly as members of our AAW and for continuing to uphold our AIMS in prayer and nurturing our individual Christian Families, for the ***Glory of God.***

*Rev Lola B Koloamatangi,*  
**President**

**Training of 8 Counsellors**



“The Anglican Diocese of Polynesia through the Association of Anglican Women in conjunction with the House of Sarah organised a Basic Counselling training program for Women leaders in the Anglican Church.

The Facilitators are Nai Cokanasiga (Manager/Project Coordinator - House of Sarah) and Akanisi Tarabe (Methodist Church/ Part time Lecturer -PTC).

*Eni Fong, the Circle Correspondence Convener from AAW Polynesia in Fiji*





## - Dunedin

**Saturday morning 12 March saw women from Invercargill to Oamaru gather at St Luke's, Mosgiel for the Diocesan AAW AGM.**

Using the theme 'Growing in Discipleship' Bishop Kelvin challenged us as to what that should mean for us and the difference in being either a traveller or a pilgrim on our Christian journey through life. He gave us some pointers that he had learnt as a result of his recent pilgrimage journeys on the Camino—

- To travel light. To learn what is absolutely essential, to care for those things and to abandon everything else. To live as simply as possible and make as little impact as possible on the world around you.
- To be present in the moment. To be aware of what is happening around you but not to concern yourself overly with the destination.
- To overcome pain and difficulties. Blisters, shin splints, tendinitis, inclement weather or the loss of equipment, are setbacks to be overcome or worked around, not excuses to stop.
- To walk with the given community of those moving in the same direction and at the same pace. To share with these members of this new family



*Bishop Kelvin, Elizabeth and Mark Procter and Izzy*

whatever one can, and accept gladly what they have to offer.

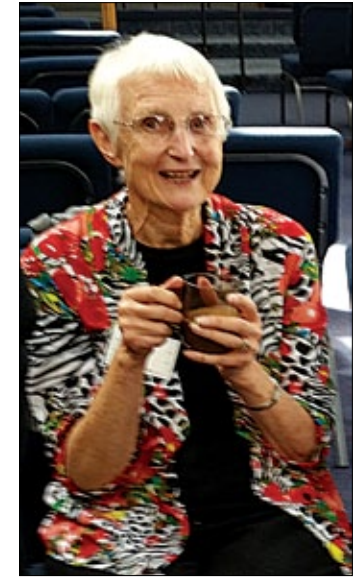
- To persevere. To realise that if you take just one step after another you can make it through a long day, and can progress steadily over the relentless landscape.
- To be grateful for the many blessings encountered on the way.
- To trust those who have gone before and those who have marked the trail.

Elizabeth Procter from Student Life Otago then shared her experiences with students on Otago Campus who are on a journey towards truly discovering the person of Jesus and what it means to know him and follow him. She explained how they give away free jandals during Orientation Week and ask students to fill in some information on a jandal shape as to whether they would like to find out more about Christianity or not. She introduced Izzy, who had filled in a jandal

form and then, following contact by Elizabeth, she became involved in the discipleship programme herself. Izzy shared the story of her Christian journey with us. Students are encouraged to join Summer Projects with Student Life from one to six weeks.



*Rev'd Jo Fielding, AAW Chaplain and Josephine Dodd*



*Life Member Val Laing*

## **PREFACE TO DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN AAW AGM BOOKLET**

Christmas and the summer holidays now seem like a distant memory, but I hope for the majority of us it will have been a special time of sharing together with the many kinds of families to which we belong. We think of the family into which we were born, our Parish Family, our AAW Family and the world-wide family of the Anglican Communion, to name but a few.

One of the aims of the Association of Anglican Women is 'To promote and safeguard Christian family life'. Each of us has our origin in FAMILY - either by birth or by adoption. Ideally, the family cre-



ates an environment which enables each member to grow creatively and there needs to be space for both loving and working. The family is the place where we can love and care for each other, both giving and receiving in an intimate fellowship. Some are nurtured and nourished by family. Others find the word family brings memories of sadness, anger or emptiness.

The essence of family is life and love. Every family is different and each member of that family unit is an individual. Each one is moving in relationship with those around them and each one is able to grow and mature and develop as individuals, for all are held together in a circle of love. Yet each individual belongs to several families at once; giving life to each family unit as only they can.

LIFE-GIVING LOVE  
LOVE-GIVING LIFE

For Christians, the family of the Body of Christ is a central focus. We join with that circle in worship, prayer, study and practical giving and outreach. As Christian families, many of you will be involved in the circle of community, serving on school committees, in service groups, in projects of care and help in working roles. Families of all races share the same hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. Together we are citizens in a wonderful world-wide family created by God.

I pray you may have a holy and blessed Lent and rejoice with our Risen Lord on Easter Day. God bless you all in your work for and through the AAW family in this Diocese.

With my love and prayers.



The Right Reverend Dr Kelvin Wright  
Anglican Bishop of Dunedin

## - Nelson

### Waimea Women's Fellowship

Waimea Women's Fellowship gathered at Wakefield for their March meeting to hear Sue Burrows talk about quilting. She spoke about the history of quilting. During the middle-ages garments to be worn under armour were quilted. They also made bed covers and one of the oldest pieces of quilting in the world is a piece of carpet from Ancient Egypt. The Crusaders brought the idea back from the Holy Land in 12th century. The Welsh were early quilters of beautiful bedcovers. The skill was taken to the USA and became a practical way of

using old clothes. Quilts were used as wall hangings to keep out the cold as well as bedcovers. As people became more affluent the quilts became more decorative. When Sue and her husband lived in the States she taught quilting at her church group. She showed a lot of her beautiful quilts made in different designs and using different techniques.

### The Holy Trinity Greymouth

The Holy Trinity Greymouth Evening Group's meeting fell on St Patrick's Day so the group dressed in green, ate green food and told Irish stories and jokes. A great time was had by all.

### Cobden – Runanga

Cobden –Runanga held a Christmas themed meeting for their first meeting of the year. Jenny Taylor led a service with a slightly different slant on Christmas. She



Sue Burrows with one of her quilts



then talked about how the traditions that surround Christmas first started. Everyone brought something from home or from their garden and spoke about what it meant to them and how we need to be grateful for the little things in life.

### **Holy Trinity Richmond Afternoon Group**

Holy Trinity Richmond Afternoon Group held weekly morning teas during January. Held in members homes they are open to church members, their friends and families and are well attended. Donations were given to help their support of the church and community. This has become a popular outreach.

### **Cathedral AAW**

Cathedral AAW held their AAW Sunday service on Mothering Sunday in March. Members made posies which were given to all the women at the door. Banners were paraded by the group and visiting groups.

### **St Thomas Motueka**

St Thomas Motueka spent an afternoon making Palm

Crosses for the Palm Sunday Service. Others were invited to help and some men and the Vicar came along. It was a lot of fun even for those who couldn't quite get the hang of it.

### **St Barnabas Stoke**

St Barnabas Stoke members went to Broadgreen House for their first meeting. They had morning tea in the meeting room and then wandered around the beautiful Rose Garden and noted some of their favourite roses. They then went back to the house for lunch.



St Barnabas members

## **- Wellington**

**Across the Wellington Diocese members celebrated AAW in many ways.**

The Rev. Dr. Jenny Dawson, AAW Diocesan Chaplain, commissioned the leader and committee of St Paul's Waiwhetu and preached. Here is what she had to say.

*Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35*



“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

What a delightful image of Jesus we have for this AAW Sunday. I have to admit that when I hear the word “hen”, I always think of my husband who likes using that old Scottish endearment for me. But here today I love the idea of the “chicks” that make up our AAW groups being drawn together by Jesus into a warm nurturing cuddle.

Two of the readings today give us a picture of an intimate God who desires that we seek her embrace and her face. She takes Abraham by the

hand and shows him the stars, promising him countless descendants. Then she is like a mother hen who longs to gather her brood protectively under her wings. It's odd that as far as I know, this particular image has never been

taken up in art. Yet? But there is more to this chook than meets the eye! I want to delve deeply into the image, and others like it. This is obviously feminine imagery. Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus uses more feminine language than masculine. You may not be aware that our New Zealand Prayer Book also uses a real mix of imagery and metaphors. You may for instance have never noticed that there are no male pronouns for God in our eucharists, – that's the pages with red down the fore edge, except in one place that I will leave you to find for yourself! Don't worry – there are no female pronouns either. Throughout the book there is some very careful wording to ensure that, as the mean-



ings of words like “man” and “brothers” were changing fast at the time the book was written, no sense of exclusion or offence-giving was allowed to creep in. So the Prayer Book Revision Commission had adopted a two-pronged policy of:

- Always using inclusive language for people:
- Always asking which image would be best in the context for God, usually drawing on rich sources from biblical imagery and prayer phrases from the past, especially the medieval mystics.

The language of our ANZPB, in its many aspects, is one thing that has made it greatly loved around the whole Anglican Communion. Let me tell you a story of how AAW was a key player in this policy coming about. I was a member of that Prayer Book Revision Commission, in many ways unlike the other members: I was young, lay, rural, a mother...and also happened to be Diocesan Secretary of Nelson AAW. The 20 or so members of the Commission knew that sometime we had to discuss the current radical matter of “inclusive language” as it might or might not have to be considered for the services we were revising. A couple of us were very keen. Just before the crucial meeting I picked up

the latest issue of the AAW magazine “Circle” which just happened to have an article by Joanne Gumbrell, the Christchurch AAW President. Joanne was urging the whole church to take seriously the need to cut out any language which was seen to exclude or to favour only half the human race. The day of the meeting I placed a copy of “Circle” on the desk of each Commission member. As you now know, we “radicals” won the day, and our NZPB reflects the full equality of women and men in church and society.

We even made sure the bishop in the ordination service was not referred to as “he” – thus preparing the way for the election of Bishop Penny Jamieson several years later. For the members of the Commission, and for the Anglicans who use our work, having a policy that enforced moving beyond the excessively and often unthinkingly used “Lord” and “Father” for God, unless contextually appropriate, has had deep spiritual as well as liturgical implications. Expanding our view of God – whom for Jewish people no name will ever do – has to be good.

We can never name all of God completely. We see different faces of God from different perspectives, and we respond with different names. So

how are you naming God at this time of your life?. It may have changed over time – and that’s ok.

It is no coincidence in this Luke passage that Jesus compares himself to a mother hen and calls Herod a fox. The threat to him is obvious. The children of God are always vulnerable to the powers of the world. Here, Jesus – the prophet who is both compassionate and tough – calls us to follow him, even to Jerusalem. As we the chicks, the descendants of Abraham and followers of Jesus, seek to be prophetic today, such a call must also shape the life and work of the AAW.

The aims are

- 1: To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church.
- 2: To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

If members of AAW – with the rest of us are called to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, that must mean being prepared to face an unknown future, maybe a terrifying and disorienting one. Of course Jesus was aware of his impending death, we know that. As a prophet, he would die in Jerusalem. Clearly he also saw it as the focal point and climax of his mission. Why is it that churches and church organisations cannot take courage from this Jesus

as they face drastic change? We know that our God, for whom we do not have language rich enough, will never abandon us. We know that our Jesus gathers us, protects us and nurtures us. We know that the Spirit always calls us onwards.

Lives change when we accept and prepare for a future which is radically different to what is known now. That happened for Abram and Sarai; it happened for the Prayer Book Revision Commission, I believe it is happening for all of us – including AAW. The tasks of prayer, participation in mission and promotion, safeguarding and nurturing Christian family life, will not look in the future what they look like now but we can be certain that they will continue to be vital. As we together commission the AAW leader and committee today, let’s hear again the words of Jesus, our brother, our friend, our Saviour, our Lord: “How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

Pray that we will indeed be willing to walk with Jesus into the unknown, into the future ... where He waits for us.



## - Waikato and Taranaki

### **Ros Robertshawe LLM**

At the 10.00am. service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February the church family of the Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary, New Plymouth honoured long standing parishioner Ros Robertshawe for her dedicated service to the church community.

Ros was born in London to the late Canon Noel and Mrs Nancy Robertshawe. When the family returned to New Zealand part of her education was at Nga Tawa Diocesan School where she studied Latin and Greek before graduating from Victoria University with a MA.

During her career as a secondary school teacher she taught in New Zealand and England. Ros was headmistress at both the Waikato Diocesan and St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls. Following her retirement Ros shifted to New Plymouth and became involved in parish life at St Mary's at both a ministry and social level.

Ros's ministry roles have included serving on vestry, as a synod representative, head sacristan, organising rosters, helping with monthly Saturday luncheons for the elderly and as a Licensed Lay Minister.

LLM roles undertaken during services include being the liturgist,

service co-ordinating, and leading the prayers and Bible readings. In addition services were taken in rest homes each week. Ros is an active member of the St Mary's AAW group and has been joined by her sister Con with whom she lives.

In recognition of her long-standing service Dean Jamie Allen presented Ros with two certificates signed by Arch-bishop Phillip Richardson and Bishop Helen-Ann, bishop of Waikato. The first certificate is for long service as a LLM and as a sacristan. The second certificate recognised Ros as an emeritus LLM – a great honour that was greeted with acclamation.

The family of the late Peter Butt, a former vicar of St Mary's, gave Ros a water colour of St Mary's painted by Bernard Aris.

In response Ros told the congregation that the church has been her life.

Readers may be interested to know that following the recent resignation of Dean Jamie Allen the Arch-bishop has appointed Dean Peter Beck, former Dean of Christchurch Cathedral, to the role for a period of two years.

*Pamela Holdt*

### **Holy Trinity Garden party**

Our last AAW gathering at Holy Trinity, took the form of a Garden Party at our Leader's home. Elaine James has a beautiful garden with trees to sit under – away from sunny Taranaki. After garden prayers, we had a delicious shared lunch before lingering, some staying for afternoon tea!



*Norma Benton*



## - Waiapu



*Elaine Wood and Margaret Clayton  
with her certificate*

### ***Certificate of Appreciation***

One of the best parts about being the Diocesan President is presenting certificates to those who work tirelessly for AAW. I went to Napier on Sunday 28th February to present a certificate of appreciation to Margaret Clayton, on behalf of the Hawkes Bay Region. Margaret has served the Hawkes Bay for many years and has had to curtail her activities due to ill health. Well done Margaret.



*Holy TRinity members*

### ***Holy Trinity, Tauranga, Garden Party, November, 2015***

On a calm, slightly cloudy morning twelve women from Holy Trinity, Tauranga arrived at the home of member Craig Capamagian, a beautiful location overlooking the harbour, for our annual garden party. We strolled around the spacious, cottage garden appreciating its

serenity and peace. Craig pointed out particular plants and shared memories of how they came to be part of the garden.

On moving inside we shared a festive, morning tea after which Craig told the fascinating story of her one hundred year plus home and of some of the historic furniture that has become part of this place and of the active Christian lives of those who lived within its walls.

When the time came to leave, Margaret Gunderson, our leader, took this picture of the happy group ready to go out refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

Craig gave each of us a bookmark

she had designed that has the words: "Mine is just a little old-fashioned garden where the flowers come together to praise the Lord and teach all who look upon them to do likewise."

### ***Rotorua ladies enjoy lunch and fellowship.***

The Rotorua AAW ladies enjoyed the sunshine and companionship at Anne Foale's lovely home and stunning gardens. This popular February venue made a great start to the AAW year. Many ideas were put forward for the coming months while we enjoyed lunch, fellowship and the wonderful views of Lake Rotorua.



*St Luke's Rotorua*

### St John's Cathedral AAW Fellowship

St John's Cathedral AAW Fellowship held its first meeting for 2016 in a cemetery! But not just an ordinary cemetery – this one on Bluff Hill, Napier, is rich in history with the graves of William Colenso and bishop William Williams among others who may have been less well-known but

whose lives still hold fascination for us today.

The photo shows retired bishop Murray Mills guiding a group around the cemetery. The normal business meeting was held after the walk in the nearby historic Ormond chapel where we were heartened to welcome some new members.



*Bishop Mills guiding the group through the cemetery*

### Te Hapara Family Fellowship

This year Te Hapara Family Fellowship (Gisborne) celebrated AAW Sunday at Holy Trinity. In celebration we carried our two banners Young Wives and Mothers' Union and Holy Trinity AAW carried their two. It was a wonderful service and our group, although small in number, was very proud to read the intercessions written by the Holy

Trinity leader, Catharine White. A tribute was paid to AAW and the many women whose lives years ago were very different to ours today.

Two members of Te Hapara also were also welcomers and sides-persons. Long will this AAW Sunday stay with us a beautiful service it was a privilege to be part of.

## - Auckland Diocese

### *The 47th AGM of the Association of Anglican Women Auckland Diocese was held at the Selwyn Library, Parnell, Sunday 13 March 2016 chaired by the Right Revd Bishop Ross Bay.*

After a short business meeting Bishop Ross proceeded with the Commissioning and Rededication Service with all Executive Officers willing to stand again and other representatives confirmed.

Bishop Ross was the guest speaker, telling us of his sabbatical leave, part of which took him on his first ever visit to Israel where he stayed 11 days in Jerusalem while attending the course Palestine of Jesus at the College of

Saint George, the Anglican centre for study and pilgrimage in the Holy Land. On his first day he visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the old city of Jerusalem considered to be the place where Jesus' tomb is located. It was so noisy, busy and overwhelming with a large number of different denominations present. The Course Director encouraged those on the course to think about a spiritual commemoration to approach the site with a



sense of commemoration – that is, to remember the life and spirit of Jesus. Amongst other places, Bishop Ross also visited the Church of the Visitation, a beautiful little church said to be built over the home of St John the Baptist’s parents, where Mary met Elizabeth. He was very moved by this visit (being mindful of the Magnificat) as he was when standing by the Sea of Galilee on the ground where Jesus walked.

Bishop Ross concluded his informal address, appreciated by those present, and drew members’ attention to the remarkable things that had happened at Holy Trinity Cathedral over the last few days.

• He described the near completion of the new Selwyn Chapel and progress of the organ being built, also the pending installation of gold leaf to be applied to the internal ceiling. He mentioned the many people who have worked very hard to make it all happen; and it seems that Mothers’ Union and AAW could be the first people to use it.

• Fundraising will be required for the erection of the very large cross to be placed outside in the proposed Cathedral garden.

Following the closing of the AGM and afternoon tea, members crossed the road to the Cathedral forecourt where the Pipes and Drums of Saint Kentigern College were performing, as members prepared to lead the procession with banners, into the Cathedral for a service to celebrate An Inclusive Commonwealth. Members of The Royal Commonwealth Society were present as was The Royal New Zealand Navy Band with the White Ensign paraded. A message from Her Majesty the Queen was read before the service concluded with the singing of the New Zealand National Anthem. This full and moving day left a lasting impression on the AAW members present.

*Natalie Taplin*

## In Memoriam

*Anne Neville Carter*

*23 December 1925 – 17th December 2015*

Anne was a loved and respected Leader of St George’s AAW Epsom for several years.

Her memorial service held 22 December 2015 was attended by many members of her family who had arrived from England some weeks earlier to join with her in her forthcoming 90th birthday celebrations.

After her arrival in New Zealand in the 1960s, Anne was appointed to the staff of Taumaranui Hospital where she spent some of the happiest years of her nursing profession (a far cry from her home in Newbury, Hertsfordshire, where neighbours were the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon of Highclere (Downton Abbey) she had visited the Abbey many times). In later years, Anne was appointed Charge Nurse of Ear, Nose and Throat at Greenlane Hospital and on her retirement became the right-hand of the Vicar, Revd Brian Jenkins in

the church office.

She was a very good friend with a wonderful sense of humour; she was happy and loving and spread her love widely. Her death was a very sad time for us all as she had been the backbone of our Evening Fellowship (changed recently to a morning meeting) for so many years. Her service, taken by the Revd Brian Jenkins, was a wonderful tribute to a remarkable lady. Some time ago Anne had chosen two hymns for her funeral service; Dear Lord and Father of Mankind being first and Jerusalem the final – sung with so much sadness and gladness in accordance with her wishes. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Easter flowers at St George’s were donated by our AAW Fellowship group in memory of Anne.





