

CIRCLE

The Association of Anglican Women
Volume 45, No 4, November 2013



Thank you for coming, Lord,
not as a bejewelled monarch
brandishing a sword
but as a human infant,
small,
defenceless,
vulnerable,
needing the love and
warmth of your human
family.

*Margaret Spiess
'Thank God for the Child'*

Christmas Stories throughout

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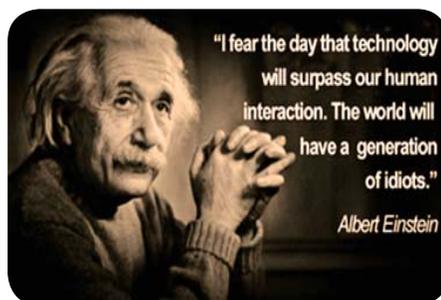
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From Our President . . .

Margaret McLanachan



Dear AAW Friends,

God works in Mysterious Ways

At the time of writing this I have not been officially commissioned as President. It was very unfortunate that instead of making the trip to Wellington for the meetings I was into week three of my stay in hospital.

At this point may I thank you all for the prayers and good wishes I received during this time.

On Saturday 16 November, Elizabeth Crawley will be in Dunedin to see me safely installed as your President.

The Dunedin Diocese is holding an Area Day at St John's, Roslyn (my church), and we are lucky enough to have Bishop Kelvin coming along to commission both myself and my Secretary Ainsley Lewis. Instead of being commissioned in Wellington with one Dunedin Diocesan person present I will now be commissioned in Dunedin with, hopefully, quite a number of Dunedin Diocesan people present.

The team here in Dunedin look forward to doing our very best keeping up the standards of our predecessors.

At this time I would like to wish you all a very blessed and safe Christmas and all the very best in your AAW endeavours for 2014.

Margaret

AAW Circle 3-yearly report

As we offer our reflections, the *Circle's* team for 2011-2013, comprises the AAW Provincial President Elizabeth Crawley, her secretary Chris Wheeler, the Revd Dorothy Brooker as Editor, Rosalind Buddo, Business Manager and gratefully thank the Revd Stephen Brooker who agreed to continue producing *Circle* from Auckland. We also acknowledge the generosity of Janice and Neville Cooper, who kindly stayed on to pack and distribute the copies.

Stephen is a Life Member of The Australasian Religious Press Association and he has also put together a comprehensive booklet, *A Guide for Circle* and copies have been distributed to assist members to write good articles and take and send photographs digitally. Stephen conducted workshops on *Writing for Circle* at AAW Conference in October, 2012.

Joan Miles of Taupo has been *Circle's* honorary artist giving many lovely paintings to the covers and centre pages of our magazine.

Judy Mills, who lives in Napier, and who was part of the Suffrage Year booklet *In Other Words*, has assisted with proof-reading.



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 Derbridge - 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 original digital photos (high resolution jpg files) to marilynjsim@gmail.com or post commercially produced glossy prints for scanning (not photocopied - nor produced by desk-jets or home laser printers) - to Mrs Marilyn Sim, 7 Glenleigh Place, Mosgiel 9024

In February 2011, *Circle* was informed it was not registered with the Charities Commission, so needed to pay tax on interest and other income. It took many months to resolve as correspondence was destroyed in the Christchurch earthquakes. AAW and its *Circle* magazine were finally registered with the Anglican Church under number CC26426.

The new *Circle* style allowing for wider layout has been well received by the majority of readers. It has also meant we have gained space through having many fewer margins - and *Circle* has been able to have 50% of the pages with colour virtually free of cost. We have received many positive comments from younger women, who do not wish to join AAW but enjoy the contributions from the articles in the magazine.

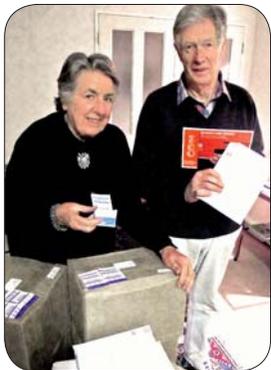
Annual subscriptions for 2012 were increased from \$6 to \$7. The number of members of AAW is 3343 and yet only 2010 pay for *Circle*. What other organisation has this percentage?

Dorothy Brooker as retiring Editor recommends strongly that all AAW members receive *Circle*. When one hears from groups that they do not know what our organisation is doing, but they do not receive *Circle*, this tells us much. During a recent visit to Vanuatu, Dorothy found that the MU group also wants to receive some copies and she is happy to receive send them there.

It was a generous move when Polynesia's Diocesan President, Miliana Fong said her members wanted to help subscribe to *Circle*. This amount is taken from the 'Fiji account' held by AAW New Zealand and has been for 43 *Circles*. (Miliana as President gets her complimentary copies in addition.)

When the annual Australasian Religious Press Association Conference was held in Wellington it was decided to register *Circle* and allow Dorothy Brooker as editor to attend. Stephen Brooker was going as well and recommended registration as he thought *Circle* would be well received.

Circle paid for the original registration and has paid the current annual fee of \$175 to 30 June 2014, as there are very active local groups in some areas, including Dunedin. It may be unlikely that a member would choose to go to a Conference in Australia but the benefits of attending the local meetings could be worthwhile for *Circle*.



Thank you for all who have sent us so many articles. It has been our privilege to work beside you, as together, we have made Jesus known through what you have offered. And, may a special blessing be upon the Dunedin team as they continue this task.

Arohanui,

Dorothy (*Editor*) Joan, (*Art*) Ros (*Business Manager*) Elizabeth and Chris, (*President and Secretary*) Judy (*Proofing*) Stephen, Janice and Neville (*our background production and {left} despatch team.*)

How would you respond?

*'Christmas' by the Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley,
Bishop-elect of Waikato, Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki.*



The story of Christmas is one of those occasions in the Biblical narrative where a woman plays a central and vital role. But while the focus is often rightly on Mary, we might well also think about the women that must have been around her, who provided a source of encouragement and support.

Many months ago in the story, Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel, and she is informed about the most unlikely of situations: that she is to bear a son, Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, and that through her, the course of history is to change radically. For we cannot underplay the significance of the incarnation, of God's arrival in our world.

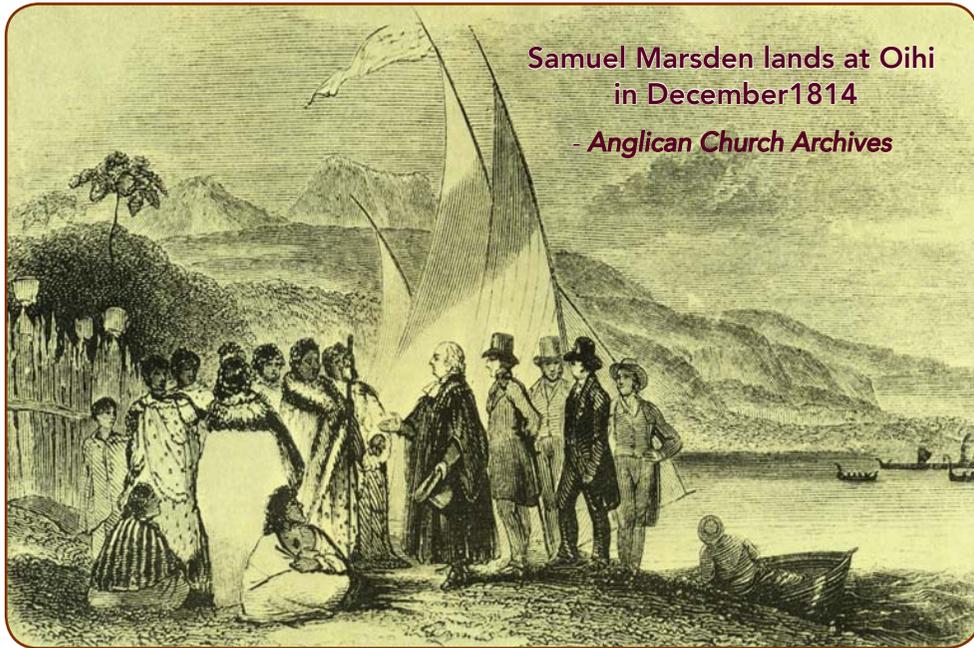
Mary is key to that, not just because she is a woman, but because she is a willing participant in God's wondrous story. One of my very favourite parts of this Biblical drama is told to us after Mary's song of praise, often known as the 'Magnificat'. Immediately after this song concludes, Luke inserts into the narrative a very interesting and often overlooked verse: 'And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home' (1:56). Although the narrative continues on after that verse, I often want to pause a while and wonder what happened during those three months?

There is much to be gained from pondering the gaps in the narrative. Indeed, part of the way in which the Bible works is precisely by leaving out some of the heavy details in the text, so that we are immediately invited to consider what mysteries might be hidden.

Just as the mystery of Jesus' birth invites us ever deeper into the wonders of God's workings in our world, the impossible made possible, so the mystery of the unsaid resonates with all our lives.

Back at the very start of the story, the presence in the manger is part of the journey towards the absence in the tomb, which itself creates the eternal presence of Jesus in the resurrection. Both parts of the story matter: the manger and the tomb tell of the dynamic forces at work. Both stories contain the fear of unknowing, and the awe-filled response to the divine presence at work. Luke's account presents Mary 'pondering' what she has been told by the angel, and responding, as we saw above, with words of praise.

The women at the tomb in Mark's account apparently say nothing to anyone, yet are in awe at what they have encountered. All of this should be an encouragement to us that we have a part to play in the story if we only allow ourselves to be swept along with the drama, and think ourselves into the places of the characters. How would you respond?



Samuel Marsden lands at Oihi
in December 1814
- Anglican Church Archives

It is not hard to imagine the astonishment of Maori at seeing animals as large as horses and cows which Marsden brought ashore and their amazement when Marsden rode one of the horses along the beach.

On Christmas Eve, Ruatara spent the day assisting with preparations for the service on Christmas Day. Maori came by canoe and on foot from around the Bay of Islands. Marsden took as his Christmas text Luke Chapter 2 verse 10: "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy..." Ruatara afterwards assisted with translation into Maori.



200 years later the significance of those events is understood in terms of the sowing of the seeds of Christianity in this country, and the formation of an enduring bi-cultural partnership between Maori and settler.

By next Easter an inspiring 'Welcome Centre' will have been completed at the road-end from Kerikeri. The Centre leads on to a Pilgrimage Pathway which will see ten way-stations erected along the track down to the Cross.

The way-stations tell the story in word and pictures of the coming of Marsden with Ruatara, the preaching of that first sermon at Christmas 2014, and how the Gospel took root in this land in a context

200 years of Christian and bicultural heritage

CHRISTMAS 2014 - By Bishop Richard Randerson

It is a rare thing in a young nation like Aotearoa New Zealand to have the opportunity to celebrate the bicentenary of a significant event in our nation's history. Next year we will have the opportunity to do so. Christmas Day 2014 will mark 200 years since the Reverend Samuel Marsden, of the Church Missionary Society, first proclaimed the Christian gospel in a sermon at Oihi in the Bay of Islands.

Born in a small Yorkshire village, Marsden was influenced at Cambridge University by William Wilberforce, well known for his opposition to the slave trade. Marsden later accepted a position as assistant chaplain to the new convict settlement at Port Jackson, Sydney. Ordained and married at age 29, he arrived there in 1794.

Marsden settled at Parramatta where he later established a church and farm. A number of young Maori (some of them chiefs or sons of chiefs) stayed there learning English, farming and agriculture. Among them were Te Pahi, and later his nephew Ruatara, who were instrumental in inviting Marsden to come to New Zealand. He landed at Oihi, adjacent to Ruatara's turangawaewae at Rangihoua Pa, on 22 December 1814.

of a strong bicultural partnership. The Centre and Way-stations will be opened around Easter next year, well in time for the Bicentennial Commemorations at Christmas 2014. It will become a place of pilgrimage for young and old alike.

To complete the project the churches ecumenically need to find a final \$60,000 by 31 March. We are asking parishes and individuals to make donations towards this target, and I am confident we can reach it if every person or group puts something in. Many thanks to AAW for a gift of \$1000.

Some helpful resources for you . . . I have a **power-point presentation** that can be used in sharing this bicentennial story at church or AAW occasions. Please email me at randersonjr@paradise.net.nz

Donation details may be obtained from Lesley Anderson, Marsden Cross Trust Board, mctb@xtra.co.nz Lesley can also provide for \$20 a marvellously informative and illustrated book by Patricia Bawden, *The Years before Waitangi*, on which some of the material in this article is based.

(See the back cover for a collage of related illustrations)

Hospital Chaplaincy, the 'Ministry of Presence'

By the Revd Barbara Walker QSO MNZHCA, Coordinating Chaplain, Hawkes Bay Hospital, President of New Zealand Health Care Chaplaincy Assn.



Every day throughout New Zealand in our 49 public hospitals, some of the 90 chaplains and 288 volunteer chaplaincy assistants are ministering the love and compassion of Christ to patients, families and staff in our busy and often very challenging hospital situations.

Daily, the chaplaincy teams called into this ministry of presence are available to *'be that presence'*.

As Henri Nouwen said: "When we honestly ask ourselves which people in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who instead of giving advice, solutions or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand."

So often this is the ministry of the hospital chaplain

Frequently in situations where chaplains find themselves, there is no place for words as such. In my experience, people just want to know that some else is there journeying beside them, listening to this anguish and pain. Being there just as Jesus was there for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

In his book *Outside the Gates*, Robert Crick shares his belief: "Chaplaincy is a unique ministry that operates primarily outside the gates of the church community." This is certainly true of Hospital chaplaincy ministry in New Zealand, as daily this 'ministry of presence' is flowing ever so gently through our public hospitals.

Crick also states, "Ministry of presence - the intentional act of being fully attentive to the recipient of care in thought, emotion, body and spirit removes the focus from speaking and doing." This invites the 'presence of being' to be very much at the forefront, which is at the centre of the hospital chaplains' ministry.

As a chaplain, my ministry is about staying and watching, seeking to be the presence of Christ in the dying patient's room - being that presence with the young mum who has just lost her child, or listening to a hospital colleague pouring out her heart as she struggles to work through both personal and work-related issues.

The art of presence is not something one learns from a textbook, but it is an oil of anointing which God pours upon those whom he calls to be his hospital chaplains.

As St Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12: verses 1 - 11, there are different spiritual gifts. For hospital chaplains the gift of presence is indeed the essential taonga for all who respond to God's calling into the 'ministry of presence' which is hospital chaplaincy.

Last year, over 350,000 people were visited in our public hospitals by the chaplaincy teams. This is a huge congregation of people reaching out for this 'ministry of presence'. In many cases they may not know what they wanted, but they just didn't want to be on their own as they faced their mortality or waited to hear the results of the test or biopsy.

World-wide research has shown the holistic care of a person is critical to their on-going wellbeing. The spiritual aspect of their holistic care is a fundamental right of all human beings. As hospital chaplaincy continues to play a vital role within our public hospitals the challenges facing the service continue to increase. An ageing chaplaincy work force, plus reduction in government and local denominational funding, is resulting in this ministry of presence coming under increased threat. Added to this is the growing population of elderly people whose life was based on Christian principles and faith.

I wonder when it is my time to receive my Gold Card, will there be the 'ministry of presence' when I am rushed into my local hospital following my heart attack or when I head to theatre for my hip replacement, or when Alzheimer's hits me?

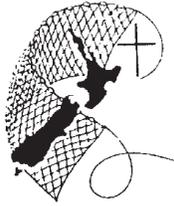
The thought of having to switch on my iPhone to get some spiritual support or to download the latest spiritual app - I'm sorry, but that leaves me cold. To have a robot sit with me when I die I find very sad. With the growth of technology these thoughts are not 'way out there', but are closer than you think.

As a chaplain ministering the presence to those in our local hospital I would ask you to seriously pray and wait on God for his direction on the challenges which I have mentioned. Is there something that God could be calling you to do to support this growing 'ministry of presence' in our public hospitals?

"I was sick and you visited me, I was dying and you sat with me." As Jesus pleaded with his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, "Stay here and keep watch with me."

Keeping watch provides the person in hospital with the necessary presence that reminds them that on their journey through the valleys and over the mountains, they are not alone; the hospital chaplain is there walking beside them as they process their fears, grief and their suffering.





Social Concerns

By Pip Harrison, Convenor

Thank you all for your work on the remits for the National Council of Women's Conference.

AAW was very much in tune with women around the country: AAW did support all the remits, but where we had queries and hesitations, so did other women.

Support for the *Living Wage* initiative was very strong. It was pointed out that this is a campaign to work with employers to improve pay, rather than a move to raise the minimum wage. This answers some of our concerns for small businesses. The NCW's latest Circular tells us that nearly half of women and a third of men are receiving under \$18.40 an hour for their work. Current estimates reckon \$18.60 an hour is needed for the basic needs of two adults and two children, where one parent is in full-time work and the other part-time.

The remit supporting free doctor's visits to age 12 for families with a Community Services Card passed easily.

Remit 3, which supported increased pay for aged care workers, was sent to the Resolutions Committee for re-wording, so as to deal with our own common comment, 'only if we can be sure the increase will get through to the workers'. The re-worded remit was passed unanimously and read, 'that NCWNZ urges the government to require every aged care and disability support provider to raise the remuneration level of all care workers to more fairly reflect the value of their work.'

Remit 4 was the one about removing GST from fruit, vegetables and milk and was the one with lowest AAW support. Our hesitation was again echoed and there was strong information that complicating the GST system would cost so much that the food would not be cheaper anyway. This remit was lost.

The last remit was in support of measures to prevent underage and forced marriages and to protect women harmed by polygamy and dowry-related violence and this too passed. While we do have laws covering these situations, there was some concern that they were not being used and that extra measures might be needed.

Two urgent remits were accepted. The first proposed urging the Government to remove from a recent Act the prohibition of the Human Rights Tribunal and the Courts from looking at the new family care policy and deciding whether or not it is unlawfully discriminatory. This passed 43 to 2 with 2 abstentions. It was felt that legislating to prevent human rights being

checked out was a move away from the New Zealand way of doing things and not welcome.

The other urgent remit proposed shifting decisions re fluoridating water to the Ministry of Health, in the same way as they are responsible for other additives in our diet such as iodine. This is a measure the Dental Association has been advocating for years. The remit passed 35 to 7 with 5 abstentions.



Next, were action plans concerning the passed remits. There will be some immediate actions, such as writing letters and joining the *Living Wage Campaign*, and some more on-going ones: monitoring what is happening, collaborating with other groups and writing submissions, as the occasion arises.

The remits agreed set National Council of Women policy, so what has been passed may now be acted on by Standing Committees.

Among other topics at the meeting we heard about, were two working groups NCW has at present: *Women and Disability*, (which is working on the needs of the disabled community, especially women) and *Women In Work: No Barriers*. The statistics regarding women's working lives are a bit disheartening at present, as we seem to be going backwards to some extent.

The leader of the working group is certainly inspiring though. A young lawyer, who was representing Guiding New Zealand, she spoke about the need to shift both the internal and external voices that young girls and women hear. (And older ones too, as someone pointed out.) She shared a short video Girl Scouting USA had made, which makes the point perfectly. You can find it at www.togetherthere.org

So many voices, films and TV programmes tell our young - both boys and girls - what they are expected to do and to be good at. However, let us rather make sure we are telling them that it's time each person does that for which he or she is best suited. Combine that with earning a decent wage for your work, regardless of whether your field of work is dominated by women or not, and we would have a better functioning society.

You will probably have heard that the 'End of Life' Bill has been withdrawn at this stage: Maryan Street does not want it debated in election year but plans to put it back in the ballot at a later date. This gives us more time to consider the issue of euthanasia - but let's not shelve it altogether.

More on the 'Living Wage'

Auckland AAW members hear about the (now) national campaign

A living wage? What, you're joking! You've just got to get a decent job, budget wisely and everything will be OK.

No, not so apparently. Some people are still struggling. Even with both parents working, school-children are missing out on things such as school trips and some families are actually living in cars.

Fala Hulangi and Diana Yukich from the group, **Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand** advised members in Auckland City that currently the minimum wage is set at \$13.75 per hour.

From being one of the most equal countries in the developed world, New Zealand is now ranked 23rd (worst) out of 309 countries in the OECD for income equality. No wonder some of our best workers are flying "across the ditch" to find work in Australia. A *Living Wage* is what workers need to survive and participate as active citizens in society - and quite a few Auckland employers are now willing to pay a living wage.

Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand estimates that the minimum wage should be increased to \$18.40 per hour.

Fala and Diana emphasised that the campaign is driven by communities and is not a political party. *Living Wage* supporters aim to bring all groups together.

Our Anglican sisters in Christchurch are supporting the *Living Wage* campaign in their area as are AAW Christchurch. Wellington City Council and The Warehouse are also working towards paying their employees more.

Notes from Mary Pace of Holy Trinity, Otahuhu.

Mothers' Union

This year's theme of *The Seeds we Sow* has inspired numbers of members to look at ways of encouraging women around the world – bringing in new members, working for change and providing for an independent future.

In Uganda the Family Life Programme has been running for over 10 years. The programme helps families to become self-reliant and improve their standard of living through health and nutrition education, taking care of their own and the community's environment, and through easily achieved improvements in the home, such as building a fuel efficient stove, or hand washing units and latrines.

Mothers' Union is now planning to adopt a Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) approach to the Family Life Programme to expand into new areas of need in Uganda. Where the programme has been a great success groups now have sufficient income to install resources such as water pumps or electricity.

MU has run the Literacy and Financial Education Programme since 2000 and has taught over 1 18,000 women and men across Malawi, Sudan, South Sudan and Burundi. Last year MU began the literacy programme in Ethiopia, and with the first facilitators trained during the year, 410 learners are already working towards accreditation.

In Burundi the programme has exceeded all expectations and targets. Since 2010 double the expected number of facilitators have been trained. These 220 facilitators have formed 566 groups reaching 13,584 people. This year Burundi MU has started the programme in the Muyinga Diocese with the result a larger number of new groups are bringing learning to many more communities.

Our local MU groups contribute to these programmes through the Action and Outreach Fund, as well as serving their local communities.

By Rosemary Bent

St Mary's Levin is a small group but keeps active with knitting for various groups and raises funds for the Health Shuttle which transports patients to Palmerston North Hospital when they need to. They are looking forward to celebrating with member Jean Maunder when she has her 101st birthday in December.

St Mary's New Plymouth and diocesan members took part in the Wave of Prayer in September when its five link dioceses were remembered. In November they are arranging a visit by a member of their link group in St Alban's.

Those attending the Mary Sumner Lecture in Auckland were interested to hear what Sir Owen Glen had to say about his life, starting with his birth in India and education in New Zealand. He is the sponsor of the inquiry into all forms of child abuse and domestic violence.

Provincial President, the Revd Iritana Hankins, has been invited to attend the Australian Mothers' Union Council Meeting being held over five days in November. She is looking forward to rekindling friendships with members she met in Toowoomba in 2008.

Iritana will be reporting on the Parent Encouragement Programme under way in the Wellington Diocese. We are grateful to MU Australia for bringing the programme to us. We look forward to Iritana's impressions of the Meeting.

Left: The MU Banner is displayed at St Jude's Church, Avondale, Auckland as the parish celebrates its centenary of the Mothers' Union - the first church in the Auckland Diocese to achieve this milestone.





Overseas and Outreach

By Convenor, Mary Estcourt

Well now, Spring is here and with it the lovely gold of the Kowhai trees. I recently attended the NZAAW Executive meeting, and at that meeting we allocated emergency fund to specific projects.

In Seddon we have allocated \$2000 to the Revd Jude Denton to assist with her work as Children and Family Ministry Co-ordinator. This is to help with her work after the recent earthquakes where she gave out gift packs to all the primary school age children.

News!

Rosie: "My role has widened this year into writing funding proposals across the Diocese. I recently wrote six proposals for a partner organisation, one which covered five out of the eight countries of our Diocese.

We are also allocating \$1000 emergency fund to her to assist in her work. I had also told her that we would continue to support the Boulaq Centre for the next three years.

Jolene. "Thank you so much for thinking of my work in the Middle East with Syria refugees. Emergency work that the money could go towards would be food parcels, nappies, or children's gifts. We use donation money to buy those things to take on house visits, usually spending about \$NZ 40-50 per visit."

Marion McChesney. "My Pastoral Care Group will be with new students but once again we are caring for the churches north in Msalato A, which includes St Matthew's Under-the-Tree, and St Luke's with its crumbling wall. First we need to plan when and where in the next term we shall be visiting - and who will preach, lead, read and take the songs."



Anne and Anthony McCormack. "Life at Ptea Teuk Dong has been very busy! During the months of July and into August as well, we have had lots of volunteers working at the centre. In fact, when I added up the total number of helpers we've had on site since starting work there at the beginning of May, the total is an impressive 53!!"

Veronica's Place, September 2013. "Our

young mums love the chance to get out and to be made a fuss of - with their babies. Some activities we've tried this term include: 1. On Thursdays each fortnight, Diane and Bryan Taylor run a budgeting course mixed in with some



games. 2. Also every (other) fortnight (on a Tuesday), Yvette Chard (with one or some of her wonderful children) come for a meal and then play games for an hour or so. 3. On Wednesdays (also every two weeks) Kathy Fletcher and Sue Barker have started up a craft group at Veronica's Place. This has so much potential and we're really excited about it."

As you can see all the money we allocate is being wisely used by the recipients. Thank you all for your on-going support, love and prayer for our projects.



2013 Golden Oldies Mission Trip to Fiji

For a long time I have had an interest in mission, so when I read reports of the Golden Oldies trip to Fiji I thought, "I could do that." So I went, in spite of my age of 84, and not knowing any of the other people going on the trip and being the only one from the North Island.

But I need not have worried, I was warmly welcomed and in the months leading up to the trip I communicated with Graeme Mitchell, the organiser of the trip by phone and email. All my questions were answered and arrangements were made.

In three of the villages we saw comparatively new green water tanks had been installed, the money for these tanks being raised by AAW. (Five members of the team are AAW members.)

The House of Sarah, a counselling centre in Suva to help women with domestic problems is also supported by AAW and also has a water tank. We also went to the better known St Christopher's Home run by the loving Anglican Nuns; to Bishop Kempthorne Primary School with a developing kindergarten; and a very good secondary school Basden College.

Our group came home with 10 students to sponsor at Basden College: these Students would not have been able to attend without sponsorship to help cover uniforms bus fares, books etc. The University of the South Pacific are working on an e-learning system to help all children in Fiji.

It was a great experience. I saw and did things I never thought I would do and had a great time doing it!

Pauline Way

The Golden Oldies in Suva Cathedral





*“And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.”
Revelation 22:17*

Lu’isa is not one for waiting around. Now the proud owner of a home and business, she has found a way to make dreams come true. Newly married, it was her own home she wanted. Persistence worked and she moved with her husband into what was then the swampy land of Popua outside Tonga’s capital Nuku’alofa. At first the house had only two walls and they had to walk everywhere on rough, swampy tracks, even to get water.

Eventually she received funding for a water tank. However, it broke down and needed repair.

Where there’s a will, there’s a way

That is when Christian World Service partner, Ami Takiloa stepped in to repair the tank and teach her how to maintain it.

Since then she has not looked back and although Popua is now connected to the main water supply, the family has the security of knowing they have water for family and neighbours. Ami Takiloa taught her how to grow a garden. Lu’isa now organises the local Ami Takiloa group, helping young wives and their families as well as running a store and driving the school bus. Sharing knowledge and skills is important, but so is her outlook on life, “Tomorrow there will be a silver lining no matter how cloudy today.”

This year’s 68th Christmas Appeal focuses on water. It is a powerful symbol of life in the Christian tradition and a resource that can no longer be taken for granted. Increasing demand, pollution and the changing climate are putting pressure on water, especially for small vulnerable farmers. CWS partners are doing their best to help them survive through rainwater harvesting programmes and teaching skills to grow food where water supply is limited.

***Please support the Christmas Appeal:
‘Share Water, Share Life’***

*Stories and resources are available at <http://christmasappeal.org.nz>
or Christian World Service, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.*

Have you ever wondered?

Have you ever wondered, just what it was really like?
The night the sky was lit, by the moving star so bright
How all the Shepherds fell silent, and the angel voices sang
Their glorious Hosannas, as across the field it rang.

Have you ever tried to feel, what others felt that morn
When the God child, a human baby finally was born
Have you ever wondered, as you saw the babe in hay?
Would it have changed your life forever, that first Christmas day?

Then travelling from afar, the three wise men
did come
To gaze in awesome wonder at
God’s only son.

Have you ever wondered, did
they know how his life
would be?

That all the love he brought
with him, he’d bestow on
you and me.

And if he called – follow me
– and gently touched your hand.

Would you have up and gone with
him, as he walked a
distant land?

Have you ever wondered ...?



Marie Higgs, Picton

Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasefika and from N through Z



Diocese of Auckland

Whangarei's Christ Church Evening Women's Fellowship is up and running after two years in recess!



We have a regular format for meetings: 1. Evening devotions; 2. Getting to know you; 3. The 5-minute member-speaker who tells of her faith, early church memories and 'why I am still here'; 4. The wider world / AAW / and our part in it; 5. A special interest focus for 30 minutes; 6. We sing the 'Grace' together before 'The supper sweet treat and recipe.'

September's 'special focus' was: "a book I want to share with you because it's worth it!" What eclectic titles enthralled us! We gave a parish-wide invitation (a no-man-ban!) in October. Local surgeon, Bill Sugrue, was an undoubted draw card. His subject: "My experiences as a war surgeon in Vietnam and beyond", and three inspirational ladies I have met and worked with". 50 people attended.

Our first outreach project is to supply the Flying Angel to Seaman Mission at One Tree Point with magazines, and to knit beanies to keep sailors' heads warm underneath the hard hats. We've supplied 50+ already. Here, we're all trying on a beanie. FUN! *Gwen Needham, interim leader.*



On 13 August, a goodly number of **AAW members from around Auckland** met in the gathering area of St Aidan's Church Remuera, where they were addressed by Fala Hulangi and Diana Yukich from the group, **Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand**, the movement which has emerged in response to growing poverty and inequality in New Zealand. (See page 7 for details.)

Earlier, Rebecca Collins and Kate Caldwell, lawyers from Martelli McKegg, spoke about the desirability of having a *Living Will* where directives are given to family members and/or trusted friends, as well as medical staff, regarding resuscitation/treatment in the event of sickness or injury when we can no longer speak for ourselves. The Revd Jeny Terrell said *Age Concern* can be helpful in making this type of decision. Naturally, your own doctor is one with whom you would also need to consult. *Mary Pace*

In August, instead of having a speaker, members of the **St John's Women's Fellowship, Campbell's Bay** considered and discussed the NCW remits. It was felt that this had been a valuable exercise and one which would be well worth repeating in future years.

In September, Dianne Kenderdine spoke on the work of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children with which she has been involved for many years. Members were particularly interested to learn how it had evolved from both St Mary's Maternity Hospital at Otahuhu and the running of several children's homes in various parts of Auckland. Otahuhu remains its base for a live-in programme for mothers and children (Granger Grove) and a large pre-school.

The Trust runs several outreach programmes in local schools and in the community. Dianne was thanked by Audrey Harris and presented with a contribution towards the work of the Trust and a large box of toiletries for the mothers in its care, some arriving at Granger Grove with literally nothing. *Pam Paul*

St. Aidan's AAW in Remuera, Auckland. Before our regular meetings at St. Aidan's commenced earlier in the year, we had a group outing to a very attractive garden at Coatesville, which is on the northern perimeter of our city. After wandering around, we had a talk on the making of antique furniture followed by a delicious lunch. This was a lovely start to our year.

We have been blessed with good speakers during the year. There was a very stimulating talk by the new CEO of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Roy Clare CBE - I believe he is now booked up years ahead. Then there was Michael Cryns, an horologist, who spoke about the Art Gallery and Town Hall clocks which he maintains -treasures and landmarks in our city. Another fascinating speaker was from the Bank of NZ who spoke about banking fraud, which is unfortunately a very real concern.

We have also had talks about Oihi where Samuel Marsden gave the first message of the gospel on New Zealand soil in 1814 and also a talk about the Wickliffe Bible translations in Africa.

In September, Rachel McQueen - a great-great granddaughter of Bishop Cowie - gave us an enthralling talk on the Book of Esther. A DVD about Prince Charles' property at 'Highgrove' is to be viewed at our next meeting. We do have fun being together, having an amusing story each afternoon, usually while the tea is being made. A good laugh warms the soul, or so we are told.

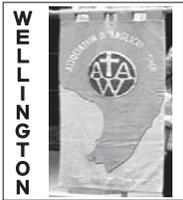
Members of St Aidan's AAW with their husbands at a parish dinner in August: Margaret Hay, Gay Croker, Pauline Scott, Gail Hodder with past leader Sue Williams in the background.



We always commence our meeting with a service in church, led very ably by the Revd Jeny Terrell, a retired priest, who takes great care in the preparation of our services and links the hymns and homily with our speaker's subject.

St Aidan's members are wonderfully diligent in supporting our annual church fair/garage sale: We also cook dinners for the women being cared for at the Anglican Trust for Women and Children and it is our joy to support the Auckland

City Mission and of course our own church and its needs. This year we have been having lunch parties as we feel that sitting around a table with just a few others, is a very good way to get to know each other better. By doing so, we can care for each other in the way Christ would have us do. *Robyn Bridgman*



Diocese of Wellington

Diocesan AGM at St Michael's Church, Waikanae. There was a warm spirit of fellowship as 75 members gathered for the annual meeting in July which opened with prayer led by our chaplain, Dorothy Howard.

It was time to farewell our president of four years, Janice Viles, who was thanked for her many years of committed leadership and presented with a gift. Pat Vincent was elected as the new president and we have every confidence in her.

The elections were followed by guest speaker the Revd Wendy Scott, Vicar of Pahiatua and soon to take on the role of Archdeacon for Ministry. Wendy based her talk on verses from Psalm 78, which included: "We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." She talked about what it means to be Anglican and the value of our traditions, and said she found that people in her parish were better at living their faith than talking about it.



Wendy emphasised that every mature Christian has stories to share from their life experience of God - from when they were confirmed, had children, suffered illness or the death of a loved one.

She suggested that we need to move from . . . admitting we go to church - to inviting someone to come with us - to "I do this because of my faith" to "When this happened Godor "I'm so glad I have a faith because" or "Guess what God did in my life today?"

Wendy then shared ideas about "How do we become a storytelling church, so that "the glorious deeds of the Lord" are indeed passed on to the coming generation? After a shared lunch, we had a service to commission the new president, Pat Vincent, and the Executive.

Sharing the 'Faith Walk'. Members of the Waikanae AAW, on the Kapiti Coast, met to share some of the treasures of their faith walks. Several nights

of strong winds inspired member Margaret Barry Gellen, to write this poem, so we may be encouraged to continue our walks in trust and hope:



*When the wind blows fiercely cuddle down at night
Stay safe and warm until the morning light
The light is Jesus waiting to hear our call....
To offer comfort for us all.
The day of seeking is coming
Stay secure in the light,
for darkness only lasts a short while.
Good night, till light*

'No Reservation' - Sheila Grounell reflects on Christmas

When Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem to be registered for taxation, they couldn't book a room in advance; they had to take what they could get. Mary was heavy with child and must have been very uncomfortable riding a donkey in her condition. Did she suffer the twinges of labour pains? We don't know.

I wonder how Almighty God felt at the thought his Son would be born very soon. There must have been great excitement in heaven as the angels prepared to sing to the shepherds.

The joy, the peace, the plan was all coming to fruition. Can you feel the excitement? "Glory to God in the highest Heaven and peace to his people on Earth." We are those people and we should be feeling the excitement as we glorify God and feel and live his peace.



God gave us unconditional love in the form of a little child. We all know the story of how Joseph and Mary went from place to place looking for a room. Have you got room for Jesus? Let's not forget his parents, Mary and Joseph. They deserve to be remembered. They listened to God and did his will. They were given a place in a stable along with the animals where their child was born.

I have difficulty comprehending how I would feel if my children had been born in a stable and I give thanks for the sterile conditions into which they were. This birth was the Son of God, born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Was the straw clean? Was it dry? Nothing was prepared. No doctors, no nurses at this birth! One thing I am sure about is that stable would have shone with celestial light.

Let's open our hearts to Jesus this Christmas and reserve a special place.... make him number one in our lives so we also may hear the angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest Heaven and peace to his people on Earth."



“The old Crochets”

Fund raising at Fielding.



St John’s Women’s Fellowship recently held a *Mission Shop Day* and raised over \$600 for missions. About 70 people attended the event and not only did they buy but they also enjoyed the entertainment provided by a group known as *The Old Crochets*.

This group not only entertained but donated their fee to missions. Thank you, you old ‘crochets!’ A delicious afternoon tea and fun and fellowship completed a very successful day. Praise God.



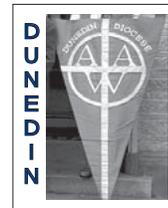
Diocese of Christchurch

Greetings to our brothers and sisters throughout the land. We are just a bit excited in the AAW of our Diocese, because this month, October 23, we will be celebrating in a big way – in our first Cathedral Eucharist for three years!

The truly beautiful, God-filled warmth of the Transitional Cathedral makes every Service a special one. This 7.30 pm Eucharist Service will have involvement from over two dozen AAW members, with teams sharing the prayers and welcoming the worshippers. Any of you who will be in Christchurch are very welcome to attend!

Included in this article are pictures of two of our lovely banners – we don’t see enough of these, especially of those groups in country districts, yet they sum up the spirit of mission in many of our members.

The Hokitika AAW AGM is on 11 November - which is the same day where in Christchurch, there is an all-day double event, so prayers for effective time spent by all are requested please. In the city, the Social Concerns morning will be led by Archdeacon Anne Russell-Brighty, on Elder-Care. The Overseas and Outreach afternoon will involve watching a tragic documentary about human trafficking – a huge modern growth industry.



Diocese of Dunedin

Sharing ‘SON-light’ at Dunedin’s AAW Mini-Conference

Twenty one women from Invercargill, Gore, Wanaka, Oamaru, Dunedin and Mosgiel gathered on 13 -14 September for a mini-conference at the Light and Hope Conference Centre in Mosgiel.

Bishop Kelvin challenged us to: share ‘SON-light through what we see’ by thinking about the way we view and take photos and the way our brain changes what we actually see through our eyes. Following evening prayer, we shared supper together before either returning to homes or billets or, for some of us, climbing the stairs to very comfortable beds at the conference centre.



Saturday morning saw us gathering together for morning worship at 9.30 am before going to two workshops where we learnt about ‘Sharing SON-light through telling our stories’ or ‘through our relationships with grandchildren’. Workshop 2 followed, and this time there was a choice between three workshops - ‘Sharing SON-light’ through Social Media, through creating poetry and song lyrics’, or through crafts and hobbies’.

At the Function Room at the Hotel Motel Taieri, we enjoyed an Agape Meal, with Bishop Kelvin celebrating the Eucharist. Dot Muir spoke about ‘Sharing SON-light overseas’. Having enjoyed a choice of five delicious lunch

The Christchurch Committee has just closed down its earthquake response fund, including some donations from outside our diocese. The remaining funds were handed over to the Revd Helen Roud for use in her parish of St Chad’s, Linwood, an area still very affected yet carrying out regular on-going relief.

We are hoping to issue a simpler, updated version of our Guidelines for Leaders and groups in the next month.

We send best wishes to our sister dioceses as we all turn our minds towards finishing the year with achieving our God-given goals, and hoping for better weather and some holidays some time! *Raewyn Dawson*



options and a slice of chocolate brownie and cream we walked back to the Conference Centre and took part in the third workshop. With another three choices - we went to learn about 'Sharing SON-light' through your gifts', through managing conflict or through 'Wait Watching'.

President Anne challenged us with a word activity 'AAW Alphabet' where we had to write words to describe our experiences of AAW beside each letter of the alphabet. This proved to be a hilarious time - the winner being a practical person with ten words that no-one else had thought of.

Our thanks to Bishop Kelvin for his support, his willingness to give the opening address, two workshops and for celebrating the Eucharist. Thanks also to Chaplain Angela [who had created the Worship Booklet, but was unable to join us as she had to take a funeral. Afternoon tea brought this mini-conference to an end - and sent us on our way home to 'Share SON-light with others'. *Anne Slaughter*



Diocese of Polynesia

Suva/Ovalau Archdeaconry AAW Day. On Saturday 12 October the women of the four parishes and two Mission Districts in the Suva/Ovalau Archdeaconry met at the Holy Trinity Cathedral for fellowship (talanoa). The purpose of the event was four pronged; (i) to fund raise for future rallies; (ii) to have a choir competition; (iii) to have a "kalavata" (best dressed) competition: and (iv) to share a fellowship meal together.



St Mark's women show off their "kalavata", and (right) women from St Luke's parish sing a Solomon Islands pidgin hymn.



The chief guest was the Revd Amy Chambers, Principal of St. John the Baptist Theological College, who spoke on the theme 'In Christ we move together' - basing her address on the two aims of the AAW.

The choir competition was won by St. Mark's, Newtown – the "kalavata" by St. Gabriel's, Laqere and the soli (offering) by Holy Trinity Cathedral parish.

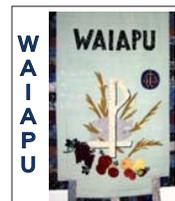
\$680.00 was raised by the women and a sprinkling of men who came to support them. It was a fun filled day and the parishes that did not turn up missed a great opportunity to "talanoa" with their sisters. *Amy Chambers*



St. Luke's group waits for lunch: L to R – Ruci, Mrs Ah Kee, Tila, Revd Amy and Ann Houng Lee.



Samoa PagoPago women rejoice at the opening of their renovated St John's Church building in PagoPago - and pose with Archbishop Winston and other women from Apia. *From Tufa Tiatia*



Diocese of Waiapu

St. Andrews AAW, Taupo has a new Banner. The background is painted silk made in Tirau. Robyn Hickman crafted the kowhai, trent and lettering. It is quite beautiful. *Pat Nairn*



Stoles and Chalice for Papua New Guinea. The stoles were hand crafted by Esther Mark of Otumoetai from hand loomed Cambodian silk bought while visiting her family there. The smaller crosses on the stoles were crafted by Heng the silk craftsman in Cambodia.

They are a gift for clergy in Papua New Guinea and were blessed by Bishop David at a recent service at Otumoetai.



Bishop David Rice had asked Waiapu AAW groups if they would consider providing some chalices for churches in Papua New Guinea. The Diocesan executive thought this was a worthwhile project, especially as PNG is our O&O focus. Researching began within New

Zealand, but the cost was prohibitive, so searching the internet began. It took a few months to track down suitable chalices - they had to be reasonably large to cater for the size of congregations and of a material appropriate in the heat and humidity in PNG. Most of the money for these chalices was raised by a silent auction held at the Waiapu Diocesan AGM last year. In the end, four chalices and patens were bought, two of them gold plated and two were silver plated pewter. They were then engraved, and Bishop David is taking them to PNG personally. Helen Blow

The year began for **St. Andrews, Taupo** AAW members as guests at the annual AMSOC BBQ. The men provided and cooked the meat, and AAW members provided salads and dessert - a very tasty and social occasion.

Our first formal meeting fell in Holy Week, so we began with Holy Communion, taken by the Revd Betty Harvey, who is one of our members. The reading was from Corinthians 1, 10-15. Leslie Cotterill gave a wonderful power-point talk about a safari in Africa, with photos of colourful birds, animals, and of walking with lion cubs - a highlight.

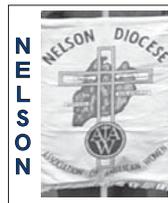
Holy Trinity Tauranga with All Saints Maungatapu. On a beautifully sunny day, we all met up at 'The Elms Mission House' in Tauranga. In the 1830s Maori and Missionaries set up on this site, then known as the Te Papa Mission Station. Eager students listened to the Christian message, learned to read and write, to grow crops and to use the new tools.

The Elms Mission House which stands on the northern end of the Te Papa Peninsula was purchased by Archdeacon Brown from the local tribe for the Church Missionary Society in 1838. The house was occupied in 1847 and remained a family home for over fifty years.

The house is beautiful and has its original furniture, including a piano dating back to the 1830s. Some distance from the house is a library, the first building erected on the site in 1839. It now contains over one thousand books! The early Missionaries had to be self-sufficient and the wide range of topics covers theology, medicine, music and gardening.

We began our visit with a service in the chapel which stands in the grounds of the house. The original building was demolished in the early years of the twentieth century. The present building is a replica built in 1965, often used for local weddings. Sitting in the quiet building it was easy to imagine what life must have been like for those early settlers. Far from home, they were sure in their faith, which would sustain them in difficult times.

Our visit ended with morning-tea as we sat under the tall trees which dot the lovely gardens. Many trees were planted by Archdeacon Brown in the 1830s. An acorn carried from England in 1829 has grown into a fine specimen on the north lawn. Norfolk pines were also favoured by the Missionaries for the Christian cross, renewed in each year's new growth.



Diocese of Nelson

The Motueka Fellowship Group attended the Spring Festival hosted this year by the Salvation Army ladies in St Thomas' auditorium. All the local churches and women from Blenheim,

Takaka, Nelson

and Ngatimoti were invited, and over 100 attended. A time of fellowship over food and hot drinks was enjoyed.

This was followed by an address given by The Revd Norma George who spoke from notes sent to her by the Revd Mary Cagill who wasn't well enough to fly to Nelson. She described the 'treasure' that is present in everyone and of being renewed. They sang hymns and were entertained by the Ngatimoti Sunday School choir.



Bouquets of daffodils were brought by everyone who had some to spare and given to anyone who wanted them. This was a great day of fellowship between local churches.

Motueka also held an Antiques Road Show with members bringing their treasures, with a local expert giving his opinion on them.

St Barnabas Stoke welcomed Cherie Thomas who spoke about the prevention of falls. As a result of this meeting two sessions were held on consecutive weeks for Cherie to give advice on how to fall correctly so as not to damage oneself and how to get up.

St Christopher's, Blenheim heard Nigel Perry speak about the work of the Marlborough Road Safety Council in the community. He gave a lot of good advice and handy tips, reminding us that our members are in the older age group and therefore have to take care. One of the group's members is over 90 and is still driving around town. Marlborough members are very aware of the needs of the people in Seddon and Ward in the Awatere Parish, following the earthquakes. They have been sending food and other help to them.

Holy Trinity Greymouth Afternoon Group's speaker was the Community Constable who told them about safety in the home and keeping themselves safe. He advised them to have sensor lights and chains on their doors and what to do if they heard strange noises!

Diane Higgins



The Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki

Mary Estcourt was the guest speaker at the **AAW Katikati** Monthly Meeting held at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Katikati in August. Over 60 ladies came from far and wide, with a number from the Diocese of Waiapu, as well as representatives from other churches. A pot-luck lunch was enjoyed before

the meeting. Mary spoke on the work of our Mission Partners overseas especially those working in difficult circumstances and trouble spots around the world. She also explained the Outreach funding for those starting up worthy projects here in New Zealand. We all enjoyed the focus on Mission, and fellowship with our Sisters in Christ.

Mary is pictured here with the Tapa cloth presented to her by the Sisters of the Community of the Visitation, in Papua-New Guinea. They made four others which were given to Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince Harry so we are in good company.

The two AAW groups at the **Cathedral Church of St Mary, New Plymouth**, Mothers' Union and Fellowship, celebrated their Patronal Festival in August. It was a delight to have Ruth Riddell (Diocesan AAW President) from Cambridge to share this occasion.

Nearly 100 people from many parishes (Anglican, Protestant and Roman Catholic) in and around New Plymouth attended the Communion service led by the Revd Jacqui Paterson from Holy Trinity, Fitzroy. In her sermon entitled 'Welcome to the Revolution', based on the Magnificat. Jacqui left no-one in doubt how radical and revolutionary is the song of Mary.

After lunch, Christopher Luke, the talented Director of Music to Taranaki's Community & Cathedral and executive officer of the Music Innovation Trust of Taranaki (MITT), spoke about the women in his life.

Beginning with St Mary he went on to share his delight at working with Dr June Nixon, the organist at the Melbourne Cathedral. At the monthly organ lunchtime recitals held in the Cathedral, Christopher often includes works she has written. He spoke also of his association with other church organists, his mother, mother-in-law, his wife Amelia and their four young daughters, the youngest of whom, Annabelle, was born only two months before. What a joy it was to share this occasion with so many. *Pamela Hart*

On 10 September, **St Chad's Westtown, New Plymouth AAW** held a 'Ladies' Day' to which members and friends from other church groups were invited. We were delighted that Ruth Riddell Diocesan President and Linda Carter, Diocesan O&O Representative accepted our invitation.



Eighty five ladies enjoyed the service of worship and communion led by the Revd Debbie Garrett.

Guest speaker Marie Preston (*right*) of St Andrew's Church at Mana has a number of nursing qualifications and had attended the conference 'Faith in Health and Healing - integrating the Church with health services', held in Coventry, England. This had been organised by Members of The Anglican Health Network which is an integral part of the Anglican Communion based in London.



Many Christian faith traditions gathered there from around the globe to discuss how to better provide health and related services, including ways to use the resources the Church has to offer effectively. Illustrating her talk with Bible quotations, Marie literally held the audience spellbound for over an hour. A very fluent speaker, she discussed the benefits and possibilities from having a parish nurse.

For more information: Mary Needs, ph 06 7511224 or email needsmj@xtra.co.nz

Home-made wonders from Waiapu

Sourced by Brenda Braybourne

Milky Way Slice

250 gms malt biscuits. 110 gms melted butter. 1½ cup dark chocolate chips. 1¼ cup shredded coconut and also chopped nuts. 400 gms [1 can] sweetened condensed milk. Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees.

Crush biscuits, until they reassemble fine crumbs. Add melted butter and mix well. Press crumbs into base of a lined 30x25 cms slice pan. Sprinkle over with chocolate chips and coconut - and then top with nuts. Evenly drizzle over with condensed milk. Bake for 25 minutes.

Cool and cut into slices. You can add chopped dried fruit as long as you keep to same ratio of dried pieces to the condensed milk.

From Mrs. Sue Cosham St. John's Napier.

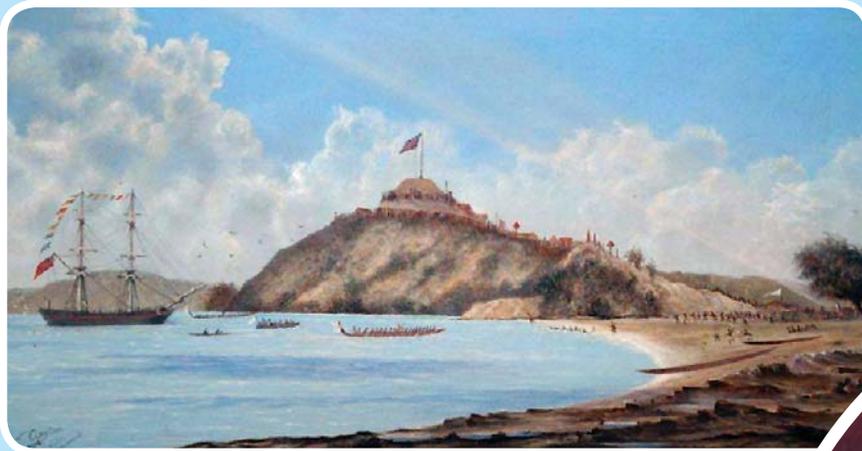
[Tried by Brenda, result "Yummy".]

For an 'itchy throat'

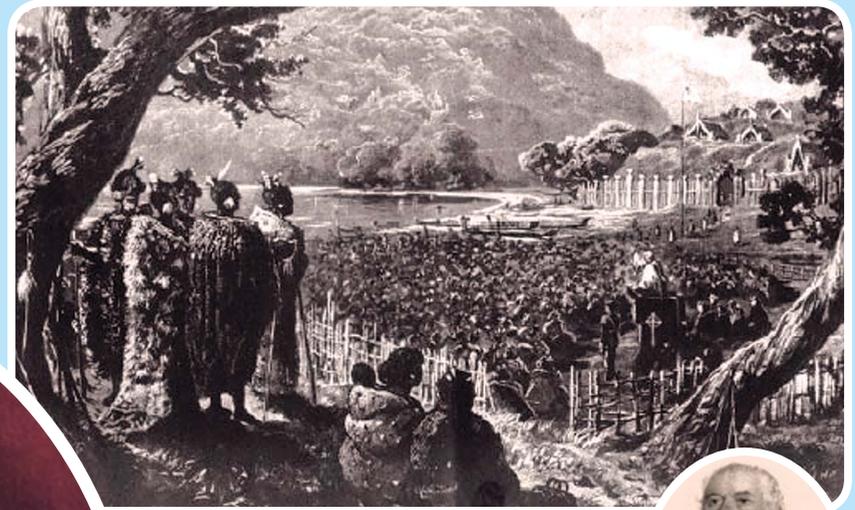
6 blackballs. 2 Tbs white vinegar

Put the blackballs in a tumbler, and pour over vinegar until blackballs are covered. These will dissolve. Sip as required. Take three in an hour and your itchy throat will have disappeared!

Comment from Brenda - Yes, this is amazing.



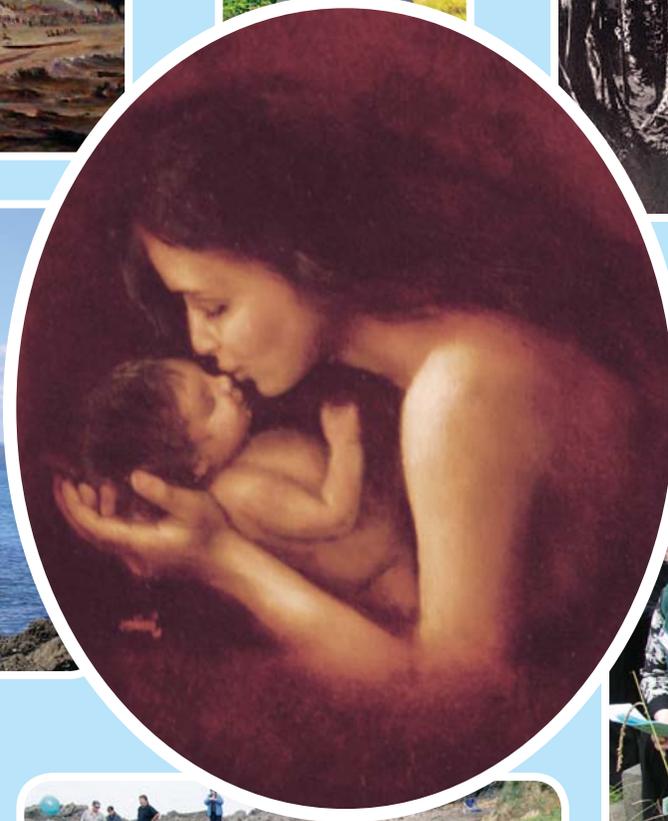
The Active at Oihi, 1874



"Behold I bring you tidings of great joy!" Samuel Marsden preaches at Oihi on Christmas Day, 1814



The 'Bishop's Ship' at Oihi, Pilgrimage 2006



Trekking to the Marsden Cross



Praying at the foot of the Cross



(Page 4 Story)

Foundations for the new Welcome Centre currently under construction.

