

CIRCLE

The Association of
Anglican Women

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*All creation shall
adore him!*



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From Our President . . .

Elizabeth Crawley C

Greetings to All AAW Members,

Several weeks ago I attended the Waiapu Diocesan Synod in Taupo. Bishop David Rice in his presidential address said, and I quote: "As with many groups in the Church, the Association of Anglican Women continue to explore ways in which we can connect with, and be joined by, Generation X to Z."

What he hears is an acknowledgement that part of the answer is moving from a place where programming and meetings are commonplace, to a place where engagement with the community and making a difference, are commonplace. He recommends and encourages AAW to continue to grow in this change

Last Monday evening I was privileged to attend a ceremony at the Napier City Council when Jennifer Harris was presented with a Citizens' Award, for the work she has done in the Church; Industrial Chaplaincy, Celebrant, Association of Anglican Women, National Council of Women, and previously Parents' Centre both local and nationally. Congratulations Jennifer - a well-deserved recipient.

At our executive meeting in August it was passed that there will be an increase of \$1 for the price of Circle. The Circle team would encourage you all to have this fee included in the subscription that we pay.

As this is my last letter for this year I take the opportunity to wish you all and your families a blessed Christmas. Take time to refresh yourselves for the year ahead, 2012 - which includes our Triennial Conference in Napier in October.

Blessings,

Elizabeth



Jennifer Harris alongside the Mayor seated at the right
'Hawke's Bay Today' photograph.

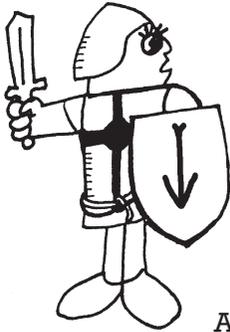


AAW - our Aims

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

Martyrs, Fanatics and Election time.

A timely musing from Kelvin Wright, Bishop of Dunedin



For about a century after the Roman Empire became Christian the practice of sending people to do mortal combat in gladiatorial fights with each other or with wild beasts continued as a way of executing criminals and as entertainment for the masses. Some in the church protested about the practice, but were ignored as interfering do-gooders.

Around the year 400 a monk called Almachus, putting his body where his words were, entered the ring to stand between fighting gladiators. He was killed by the gladiators acting on the orders of the city prefect, and to the loud approval of the enraged spectators. His example of courage and the behaviour of the crowd so moved the emperor Honorius that he immediately and permanently ended the shows. Almachus is revered as a martyr to this day, and his sacrifice stands in sharp contrast to the fanatics who have wrought such destruction in many parts of the world over the past few years.

While true martyrs risk death for the sake of the truth, it is fanatics who actively commit suicide. While martyrs risk their own lives, fanatics knowingly spend the lives and property of others. A martyr stands unflinchingly in the face of overwhelming evil but a fanatic offers violence to the perceived enemy. Martyrs make the choice of offering what they have in the service of their cause; fanatics deny others the choice of whether they want to give their property or their lives.

Martyrdom and fanaticism aren't always matters of life and death; they may involve people making stands on issues of varying degrees of importance.

While the distinction between the two is quite obvious at the extreme end of the spectrum when it is a matter of life and death, it becomes harder to see when the acts of martyrdom or fanaticism are more muted and subtle.

Around election time, both from within the church and without, I expect we will see a rise in low key acts of martyrdom and fanaticism. Perhaps you will be able to spot them. One thing will help you spot the difference: it is only ever fanatics who call themselves 'martyrs'.



A fine heritage church

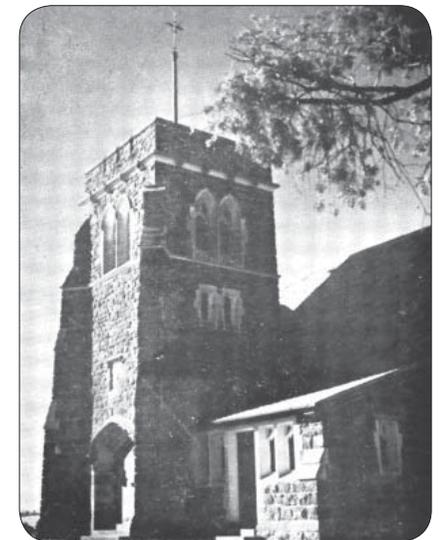
From Ann Wilkinson

The Anglican Church throughout New Zealand has some fine churches. One of the finest can be visited in the little township of Maheno, about ten kms south of Oamaru on the main road. It has a fascinating history. In 1885, a wooden church was built on the site of about two acres. This building served for worship for many years - but Colonel Joseph Cowie Nichols, a parishioner, of Kuriheka, had other ideas. In the 1930s he informed Archdeacon Russell, vicar of St Luke's Oamaru, and a great friend of his, that he proposed to leave a sum of money in his will to build a better church to the glory of God. Archdeacon Russell suggested to Col. Nichols that he might consider building the church then, instead of waiting till after his death. In this way he would have the pleasure of seeing it built. His brother Cyril was also associated with the plan.

This idea appealed to Col. Nichols, and so the work was commissioned. Construction began on the new church, the old wooden church having been removed to Kuriheka, where it still serves, but as a sawmill - doubtless the only sawmill in the country with lead light windows. The foundation stone was laid on April 30, 1938, and the completed building was consecrated by Bishop Fitchett on December 16, 1939.

The underlying principle in everything to do with the design was that nothing but the best was good enough for God. There is some fine carving, both in Oamaru stone and wood, with the Bishop's chair, carved with the Diocesan Coat-of-Arms being quite superb. It has all been executed by Fred Gurnsey, of Christchurch, whose work can be seen in a number of Canterbury churches. A one-manual pipe organ with detached console and electric action, a 9 cwt bell graces the tower, (as also does the bell from the old church), furniture of the highest standard; all contribute to the excellence of this building. The church seats 52 people.

The present congregation has a fine sense of the heritage they possess, and the property (which includes the former vicarage) is well cared for. Visitors are welcome through the week as well as on Sundays, and the church is open through the day. A visit is highly recommended - especially to the celebration on 4 December, commencing at 10.30 am.



From Paradise to the Devil's Staircase

Ministry in a Resort Town - by David Coles, Vicar of Wakatipu —C



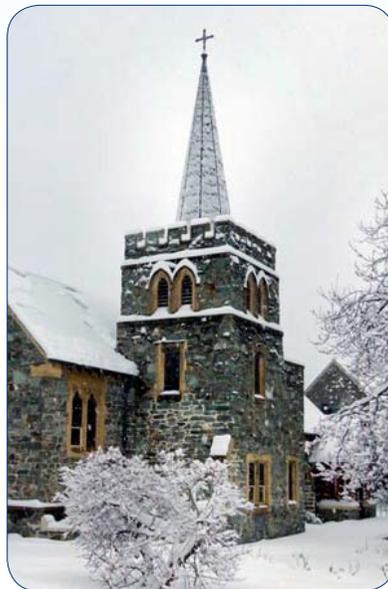
When I began ministry in the Wakatipu Parish in 2008, someone joked that at one end of the Parish, near the Routeburn Track at the head of Lake Wakatipu is a place called Paradise. At the other end of the Parish, towards Kingston is a rocky bluff at the Lake Edge, called The Devil's Staircase! I live and work between the two extremes in more ways than one.

I have been coming to Queenstown since the 1960s to ski and tramp, and along with Milford Sound, this region is clearly one of the most scenically beautiful places in Aotearoa/New Zealand. At my installation as Vicar, I invited Carole Graham, then the Vicar-General of Christchurch Diocese to preach. Knowing that I had been working with a heavy episcopal load for nearly eighteen years, she wisely indicated, and instructed me to "do a lot of beholding". Every day, as I drive the 12 kms from the Vicarage to the Queenstown CBD around the edge of Lake Wakatipu, I have to be careful not to take my eyes off the road to 'behold' the majesty and grandeur of God's creation in the Remarkables, Walter Peak, Cecil Peak and range after range of often snow-capped mountains. Psalm 121 – "I lift up my eyes to the hills" takes on a wonderful new dimension here.

Over 1.4 million visitors come here every year, 40% from other countries. Half a million come from Asia, with large numbers from Europe, North America, and now with direct flights from major Australian cities direct to Queenstown, large numbers of our friends from over the ditch. There are over 15,000 beds available for them to sleep in with accommodation options ranging from groundsheets in camping grounds to silk sheets in luxury lodges where high end multi-millionaires fly in their private jets.

Long gone are the days when the Vicar kept his horses in the vicar's glebe up the hill from the church (Now an up-market apartment called The Glebe). Long gone are the days when to get to take a service at Glenorchy, vicars had to hop on the 99-year-old steamer 'Earnslaw' and then spend the night in Glenorchy before coming home the next day. These days, there is a sealed road all the way and a pleasant drive, though in winter the road can be icy and impassable.

After a long ministry, beginning in Auckland Diocese, I started drifting South, first as Dean of Waiapu, then Dean of Christchurch and Bishop there until 2008. I vowed that I was going no further South! But Joy and I have fallen in love with Central Otago and its people.



Many people ask me "Why did you go back to being a Vicar?" I have never thought of it as 'going back'. On the contrary, I find myself often on the cutting edge of Christian mission here.

There are really three groups of people to whom I minister – the 'locals' – some of whom were born here and have seen the town grow from about 1000 people in the 1930s to about 17,000 permanent residents now. They are the backbone of the parish with all the wonderful variety of pastoral needs and opportunities, including a very loyal AAW group.

Then there is a significant group of mainly younger people here on working holidays for one or two years, working in the hospitality industry or in the adventure sport sector – on the ski fields, bungee jumping, white water rafting, paragliding, tramping etc.

Perhaps the most challenging part of ministry here is to the many thousands of tourists who pass through for just a few days. Contrary to popular opinion, these are often people facing all kinds of spiritual and pastoral crises. Many come into our churches to pray and maybe light a candle and write down their prayers which we bring to our Wednesday worship each week.

At St Peter's Church in Queenstown we host a Korean-speaking congregation and also a Brazilian (Portuguese speaking) congregation. Increasingly this is a cosmopolitan community.

Queenstown is also a party town. In the CBD there are over 100 licensed premises with many bars open until 4.00 am. Police report a high level of alcohol-related violence with 40% of those apprehended born overseas. With other local clergy, I serve as one of the volunteer hospital chaplains and we come across many young people who have overdosed on alcohol or drugs, far from home and often without financial support. Our local churches share in supplying the Salvation Army food bank which often gets called on for emergency help,

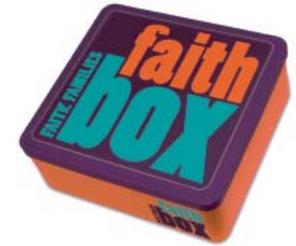
Another way we are able to reach out to our many visitors, is to offer services of worship to coincide with the various festivals offered here – the Arrowtown Autumn Festival, the Winter Festival and Winter Games, the Jazz Festival. We are very fortunate to have many talented musicians to lead both our regular worship, and also to provide excellent jazz, a Gospel Choir and a Community Choir for special occasions.

Christmas and Easter services attract huge numbers and we have to offer multiple services at these times. It is normal on any Sunday to have visitors from up to a dozen countries as well as many different Christian traditions and often from other faith traditions.

After a very long ministry I count it a privilege and a fantastic opportunity to be serving God still with the Body of Christ here, between Paradise and the Devil's Staircase!

Ministry with under 40's in the South

By Benjamin Brock-Smith



My name is Benjamin Brock-Smith and I am the under 40 Ministry Educator for the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin.

Younger people are not better than those older, neither are older people better than younger. Everyone is important to God. The fact is that in a lot of places - for a multitude of reasons - we're short on people under the age of 40.

"Under 40s" covers a huge range. Infants, children, intermediate aged young people, those at high school, those undertaking tertiary studies, young adults, singles, those married, those married with children.

A large part of what I do is providing resources for the many people around our diocese who are working hard to improve their ministry across this range.

If there was a competition for the most recommended resource, this year the winner would be very clear.

The 2011 award for best new resource goes to the Faith Box. Faith Box is a contemporary approach to family devotions packaged in a funky orange cake tin.

Started by New Zealanders Mary Grant and Nikki Watkin, 'Faith4Families' is a small organisation which aims to empower parents to pass their faith on to their children (and grandchildren)!

In the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin we have found this resource to be a real treasure.

If you haven't seen a 'Faith Box' yet (and you are in Dunedin) drop into our Ministry Resource Library some time. Our library is housed in the main reception/meeting area in the Diocesan Office.

'Faith4Families' has an excellent website www.faith4families.org where you can learn all about the 'Faith Box'.

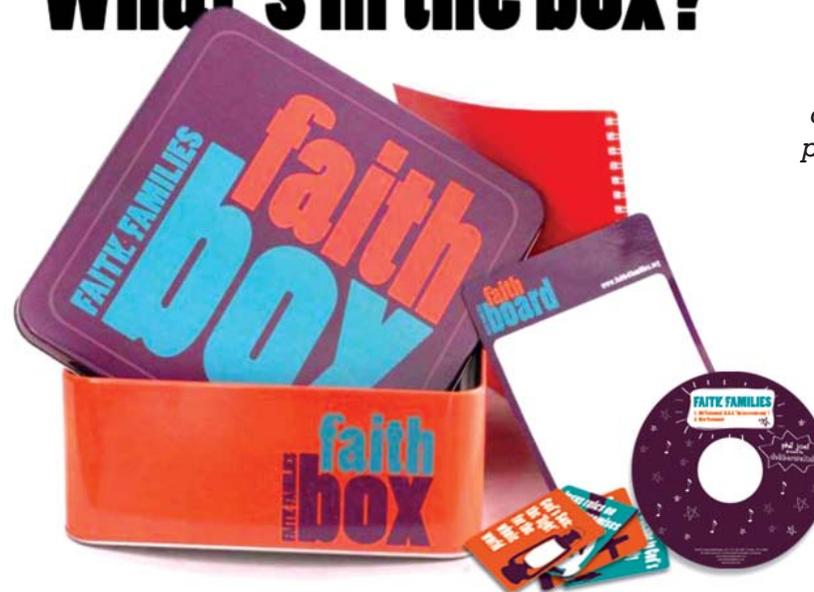
On their website they describe it like this . . . *"It is a programme for a weekly family time of learning and worship, delivered in a box/tin. The 'Faith Box' offers parents the components for a 20 minute weekly family time, teaching the great truths of Christianity including the Biblical stories and principles for life. It is designed to be creative, fun and interactive and to build strong family memories as well as teach the whole story of the gospel."*

Although it's not designed for Sunday Schools, several of our churches have chosen to use the 'Faith Box' as their curriculum. It is so easy to prepare: just collect everything on the list, put them into the tin and you are ready for Sunday.

My wife Karlina and I have been using the 'Faith Box' for our weekly family devotions and our children just love it! Every Tuesday afternoon they don't let us forget: "It's 'Faith Box' night!"

You can purchase 'Faith Boxes' directly from www.faith4families.org or contact me at my office 03 488 0826.

What's in the box?



By the Revd Angela Dutton



Hi! My name is Angela Dutton and I am the recently appointed Regional Dean for Waimea Plains and Gore & Districts in the Diocese of Dunedin. At the time of writing this I have been in this position for a week and in the country for not much longer - so I really am the new kid on the block.

I began my life in the Anglican Church in Victor Harbor, South Australia. As an older teenager and young adult I was actively involved in the life of my local church and

the Diocesan youth movement. Following 4 years of study and training at St Barnabas Theological College in Adelaide, I was ordained in the Diocese of Bendigo, Victoria in 1997. I spent the first 7 years of my ordained ministry in that diocese before heading north to the Diocese of Grafton in New South Wales where I have spent the last 7 years as Rector of the Parish of Maclean.

Having spent all of my ministry in country areas I am well acquainted with travel and ministry in the life of multi-centre parishes.

As a teenager, one of the first ministries I was involved with was ministry with children. I have always believed this to be an important ministry and have sought to introduce children to a relationship with God and a positive experience of Church. As I look around society today, it seems more important than ever to offer ministry in some form to this young generation. Where some form of religious education was once the norm, the same cannot be said for today's children, who know the name 'Jesus' as little more than a swear word.

I believe very strongly in the ministry of all the baptised and am looking forward in this new ministry role to 'freeing' and equipping people for ministry. The Holy Spirit gives to each and every one of us, gifts for ministry. It is up to us as individuals and as a church to nurture and grow these gifts into ministries that work to the benefit and glory of God's kingdom.



By Convenor, Robyn Hickman —C

Charity begins at home - and the world is our doorstep

This month Overseas and Outreach will focus on the Outreach, or 'Home' side of Overseas and Outreach. Every year the Association of Anglican Women makes a donation of \$3000 to the Churches' Education Commission, or CEC. Thanks are received for this donation, the largest given from any organisation. CEC has 3,800 voluntary Bible in Schools teachers and 56 chaplains serving over 90,000 state school pupils each week.

Our Seeding Funds are applied for and used to help start a venture, particularly related to women and children. No wages or travel expenses can be claimed. The parish of Wellsford has been granted \$1000 towards funding their *Seasons* programme. This service enables training of a grief and support counsellor for children who have lost a parent (through death or separation), close relative, or even a pet. There are now many *Seasons* programmes working around the country.

Teen Mum' School. One happy outcome for the seeding funding of the YMCA Teen Mums School in New Plymouth is the success of Ms AJ MacDonald who began at the school 6 years ago. After completing her Diploma in Social Work she has returned as a Social Worker, helping with studies and planning futures. "When I first came here I was a young mum and they have supported me the whole way through, so to come back here and work is a privilege."

AAW's own regular outreach is the acclaimed Circle Magazine available to all members, being full of ideas, informative articles, prayer, news, and valuable support for all. Where else can you find a good magazine for less than the price of a cup of coffee?

Emergency Funding. Christchurch has been the chief recipient of any extra funding since the Earthquakes. Warm clothing, counselling, grocery and petrol vouchers, hospital and school kits, and monetary donations have all been received by the affected families. Phone lists enabled AAW ladies to quickly check up on over 400 of their members. Seedlings are now being potted in preparation for the replanting of gardens.

Further Afield. The water tanks continue to be installed in various villages in Fiji to make life easier for the settlers. Kindergartens are thriving, and sewing machines are making a difference to the ladies. I received a letter from the Ba ladies thanking us for their machine. They have begun sewing lessons and now make clothes, quilts, kits, mats, and kneelers for the church. There will be a Talent Day later this year when they will invite other parishes and communities to come and purchase items from their sewing, arts and crafts, and cooking etc. This is a good money raiser for their parish and helps them to be self-sufficient.



Social Concerns

By Eileen Imlach, Convenor

In my role as Social Concerns Convenor I represented you at the National Council of Women National Executive meeting in Wellington on 2-4 September 2011. It was a joy to meet up with many AAW members who were representing other organisations. Unfortunately, time did not permit us to get together for a 'mini meeting', partly because as usual I 'lived out' to save money for our organisation, so there was no time for relaxing and informal chat to friends.

The meeting was held at Brentwood Motel in Kilbirnie Wellington, and being a National Executive meeting, it was smaller than the Biennial meetings open to all members. Celia Wade Brown, Mayor of Wellington, opened the meeting, challenging us to face the issue of the smaller number of Women in Management Roles and Boards, noting that only 30% of women are now in management roles - a marked decrease.

Rowena Phair, CEO of the Ministry of Woman's Affairs, spoke of the launching of the 'Women in Trade Network', giving some interesting data regarding the 1% of women working in trades, and how so few are on Boards.

National President of NCWNZ Elizabeth Bang's report stressed the financial problems NCWNZ is experiencing due to the loss of government funding when it was de-registered as a charity. She affirmed that NCWNZ is not a political organization. Board members have pledged to donate a fixed amount to NCWNZ and members were encouraged to follow their example.

Remit 1. National Standards in Schools: 'That NCWNZ urges the Government to reconsider its policy on national standards in primary and intermediate schools'. (Carried 48-4)

Remit 2. Education, Tupu Series. 'That NCWNZ urge the government to reinstate

the funding for production of the Tupu Pacific Language Series.' (Strong report passed.)

Remit 3. Financial Taxation: 'That NCWNZ calls on the Government to implement a financial transaction tax on all financial trades.' (Remit lost.)

Remit 4. Chocolate and Child Labour. 'That NCWNZ urge the government to require NZ chocolate manufacturers to verify their imported cocoa beans are certified free from child labour.' This remit generated a lot of discussion, some members saying that in some cases there was no alternative for some families as they were so poor. (Remit carried.)

Remit 5. Optional Protocol to UN Convention. 'That NCWNZ urges the Government to sign and then ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities.' (Carried.)

Remit 6. Women Prisoners. 'That NCWNZ urges the Government to develop and implement policies and procedures that address the specific needs of women prisoners in transition to the community.' (Carried.) I voted as you directed. Interestingly, the AAW voting was as carried by the meeting.

Guest speakers. Kitty Hilton, as would be expected, was a Fund Raising expert who presented many options of fund raising - a task that I feel most AAW members already knew all about! Judy Bain gave an interesting challenge on 'How we would want NCWNZ to look and feel over the next 10 years', issues many of our AAW groups are now facing.

Thank you to members who discussed and forwarded voting guidance prior to the meeting. I am aware some groups found a number of the issues difficult and not relevant to their life. AAWNZ has always has been a strong force within NCW and I was proud to represent you.

The gift of speech

How carefully we must guard this powerful gift of speech.
This gift, which once set free, can never be recalled.
So we who exercise this power should teach....

(and always practise what we preach,)
That truth should be the essence of it all.

This gift can tell of love for one another,
can share with others, joys you have discovered,
can, to the doubter, bring encouragement,
can praise the learner on each small accomplishment,
can thank the giver of each courtesy and pleasure,
can sing a song that brings back memories to treasure,
can tell a story that will raise a smile,
and help the lonely walk the extra mile,
can teach the young what's wrong, what's right,
can soothe the child who's frightened in the night,
can lift a heavy heart with a few words of concern,
so share the burden and bring the peace
for which it yearns.

There is a time to speak, and a time to refrain.
One hasty ill-considered word can heap another coal
and cause a smouldering fire to fiercely burn.
It is in our power to answer softly, and to turn
away that anger, and to peace return.

Yet there are times when voices must be heard.
When Justice is at stake, then voices must be heeded,
And believed.

So many mindful words can build and bind.
No word should ever wound, or be unkind.
What power we wield when opening mouths to speak
Could we but check, while tongue is still in cheek,
And so believe that everything we say
Will be for good of all, in every way.

Barbara Falconer

Hunger solutions - key to Christmas Appeal . . .

Christian World Service's 66th Christmas Appeal focuses on food issues and solutions

For the "least of the brethren" in the world hunger has leapt back onto the menu. Every five seconds a child somewhere dies of hunger-related causes. If your food bills have soared this year imagine watching prices become impossible. Sadly some people have - which prompted us this year to decide to showcase both the issue of hunger and the solutions provided by partner groups around the planet.

The solutions are the good news. It is one of our expertise areas. It is something we do well and that provides lasting solutions to poverty.

Growing good food is good development. It is especially good development when you do it with the local people, having listened and learnt from them. It's a strongly Kiwi way of working that involves getting beside the poor and the powerless.

It's a simple idea that we hope the rest of the development world will formally adopt in Korea at the Busan conference this year - an idea we pioneered as New Zealanders that you and those before you helped make a reality.

For Christian World Service this year's Christmas Appeal is one of the most crucial ever - the first since Government funding for CWS has virtually gone.

It is also the first since we have soul searched and decided to honour our past by putting our present and future in the hands, and pockets, of our traditional supporters.

And the first since we asked some of you directly for extra support and were stunned at the positive intensity of that support, both financial and emotional.

It is also the first ever CWS Christmas Appeal produced in post earthquake Christchurch. We helped anchor relief efforts post-quake and saw how with resolve the city made sure nobody went hungry after the devastation of the quake. You can find our 66th Christmas Appeal online at christmasappeal.org.nz



A Fiesta of Freesias

- a song of spring -

No one would say I am a good gardener.
I don't say it myself.
Amidst the succulents and plants of easy care
I have few flowers to enjoy and share.

Camellias in winter maybe
and wild violets thrive in hard places -
but then as winter nears its end
and spring is soon to come -
hidden in their spiky greenness
freesias of colours galore
glory in the warmer sun.

Then I know it's truly spring once more.

And I remember Jack next door
Who poked those first freesia bulbs
into the garden we shared.

He tended them too and cared
but now I do - sort of
despite neglect each year
they bloom brighter and more
than the year before.

They speak to me of God's forgiveness,
love and grace
God's way of saying each spring
'one more time'.

Such pleasure to pick them
their gentle fragrance pleasure to give.
A bunch for a friend's birthday.
a neighbour with a concern.
a friend who visits.
someone who is ill in care.

They survive early spring's rough gales
still smiling when wind and rain are done.
Sparkle with crystals
weighed down a little under the sun.
I give thanks to Jack for ongoing gift
he had little time to enjoy.
But now I do - and others also stop
to admire this fiesta of freesias.

Chris Parkes

On the way to Bethlehem . . .

Advent - a time of waiting

We wait – all day long,
For planes and buses,
For dates and appointments,
For five o'clock and Friday.



Some of us wait for a Second Coming,
For God in a whirlwind
Paratrooper Christ.

All around us people are waiting;
A child, for attention;
A spouse, for conversation;
A parent, for a letter or a call.

The prisoner waits for freedom;
And the exile, to come home.
The hungry for food;
And the lonely, for a friend.

The whole earth's a waiting room!
"The Saviour will see you now"
is what we expect to hear at the end.

Maybe we should raise our expectations.
The Saviour might see us now
If we know how to find him.
Could it be that Jesus too, is waiting
For us to know he is around.

Joseph T. Nolan, Let Earth Rejoice.

Holy God, as children the wide world wait in eager expectation
to discover hidden treasures in tissue wrappings,
so let us catch the spirit of restless waiting for gifts more real and lasting.

Let our lives be active in peeling away the wrappings of your will and way among us.
Remove the barriers that bar us from listening to the joy and sorrow of our friends,
that hold us back from expressing our love to you and one another.

As we prepare to celebrate the gift of your child of love,
remind us that this love is more than just a cosy joy
and was both sacrificial and life-giving.

He came as one of us, accepting us as we are.
Open our hearts to prepare him room
by opening our heart
to make room for others.

Through others,
may the Christ Child come
and abide with us.

Amen

'In Other Words'
- Dorothy Brooker
and others.



On the way to Bethlehem . . .

Mothers' Union

By Rosemary Bent for Iritana Hankins

The Commissioning of the Revd Iritana Hankins as MU Provincial President took place on 4 September at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Auckland.



It was a joyful occasion with Mothers' Union members from around the country taking part in a Banner Parade at the beginning of the service. Iritana was commissioned by the Rt Revd Kito Pikaahu and it seemed fitting that the Eucharistic service was shared with a baptism. The service was a first for the commissioning of a Mothers' Union Provincial President, as apart from the sermon, the service was in te Reo.

Five of our men members were present, with two assisting in the liturgy.

After the service Iritana cut the cake which was decorated with a model of Mary Sumner House. Around the base were 83 small silver balls representing the countries with a MU presence.

Iritana has 'hit the ground running' as she has been travelling around visiting groups and individuals. She was able to enrol her daughter at an Admission Service at St Mark's, Wellington and will be visiting Christchurch late October.

Auckland Mothers' Union joined with the AAW to present a motion to Synod regarding the commercialisation and sexualisation of children. It is hoped that other Diocesan Synods will take up this concern. Meantime Wellington MU has been having a series of meetings exploring the possibility of introducing the Mothers' Union Parenting Encouragement Course. There are several parenting courses available but it was felt a faith-based course would be of real benefit to those taking part. We look forward to further details.

Melanesia is the latest Province to introduce the MU Parenting Course and the worldwide trainer, Sheran Harper, will pay a return visit to Honiara in November to provide further training for those chosen to facilitate the course.

The worldwide nature of our Mothers' Union membership is emphasized in many ways. September saw several New Zealand dioceses covered in the Wave of Prayer when special prayer emphasis is focused on linked dioceses. Prayers are also included on the MU website and one English MU member whose family live in Christchurch wrote "Thank you so much for the lovely prayers for the New Zealand earthquake. Our family are all safe but traumatised by what has happened. My husband and I are very comforted by the prayers".

In November, many members will be wearing white ribbons and helping with funding and other ways to promote the White Ribbon Campaign against

violence. Globally up to six out of ten women will experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. Violence against women and girls has far-reaching consequences, harming families and communities. Mothers' Union is committed to speak out against domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking.

Following on from our theme of 'Faithful Relationships', next year's theme will be 'Your gifts? Let's celebrate!' We look forward to celebrating the gifts which we need to share with each other to forward the work of God's Kingdom.

Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasefika and from N through Z



Diocese of Dunedin

All Saints, Invercargill members have been knitting coloured singlets for "fish and chip" babies in Africa. These are babies born to mothers with Aids who are sent home wrapped in newspapers. Members also knit squares for knee rugs. They have also had a speaker from St John's who told the group about medical alarms.

Holy Trinity, Invercargill had a very successful mannequin parade and raised about \$900 for the Hospice.

St John's, Roslyn. At a recent meeting St John's members enjoyed learning some exercises that would be easily managed to do at home. Nicola Shanks, Green Prescription Co-ordinator from Sport Otago, had us all working and laughing as she showed us how to do a Dyno Band Work-out.

It didn't matter what age members were or whether they stood or sat it was possible to participate. Laughter held some back but there were those who purchased the Dyno band and a sheet of exercises. It is not known whether the exercise programme has continued with individual members.

'Oh, my mother had one of those!' - attendance was not great at this midwinter meeting but those who went enjoyed a very interesting evening with members speaking of items that had belonged to either their mother or grandmother. Items included a sunhat, musical jug, cup and saucer, fur stole, a white temperance bow brooch and many others. We all learnt an amazing lot from all the interesting facts presented.





Diocese of Wellington

Belmont Archdeaconry Lunch. The occasion was held to raise funds for the Hutt Hospital Auxiliary, an organisation which is now 65 years old and finding it increasingly difficult to fund its work.

Our guest speaker was Peter Glensor, a member of the Hutt Valley District Health Board, deputy chair of the Capital and Coast DHB and deputy chair of the Greater Wellington Regional Council. Peter's theme was 'Collaboration and communication in communities to make effective use of limited resources' whether in health services, roading or flood control. He began his career as a Methodist minister and then moved into community work, setting up a health service in Pomare and later Petone.

This led to a national network - *Health Care Aotearoa* - which became a model for primary health care. In local body politics and health care, Peter stressed the need for collaboration in the use of scarce resources, the need to strive to encourage people to work together. When he chaired the HVDHB, he worked with mayors and councillors in four specific areas of cooperation - physical activity, children and young people, deprived communities, and alcohol problems. In all these areas, both the health and local body services cooperated in planning. Now the DHBs need this collaborative approach to stretch limited resources. This does not mean one will swallow the other. Rather it means that each will gain from the strengths of the other. This now includes Wairarapa health services as well as Wellington, Kapiti and the Hutt Valley.

On a cold winter's day, the lounge of **St Mary's Church hall at Levin** was warm as was the kindness of the St Mary's Mothers' Union. Each month at their fellowship

meeting the women take a saucer collection which is donated to a good cause - this time to Levin woman Anna Phillips' efforts in helping to break

the poverty cycle in India. Anna is involved with vegetable growing, raising fish and chickens and beekeeping to help provide Indian families with food and a living. Schemes are researched, tested and each costs under \$30.00 to set up.

Member Enid Smith had been moved by her story in the local paper and had read it to her group. The Mothers' Union were so impressed when they read the story that by the end of their meeting they had collected \$50.00. "Everyone can make a difference," said Mrs Smith.



The Wellington AAW Diocesan Mission Day was held at **St Peter's, Palmerston North**. On the right are Elizabeth Hopper, Diocesan O&O, Josephine and Stephen Tustin (guest speakers, who are working out of Spain continuing their role of helping Arab workers reach their own people) and Penny Merrall, Northern Region.



Doreen Earls of Clogher Diocese in Northern Ireland visits Wellington. Recently, our Mothers' Union in Wellington had the great pleasure of a visit from Doreen, a teacher married to a farmer near Belleek in Northern Ireland.

She wanted to meet Mothers' Union members and learn what they do in their communities. Although they arrived from Brisbane around midnight, they were up for early breakfast and walked to St Michael's Church in Waikanae for the 9.30 am service where they received a warm welcome.



Afterwards, Doreen gave an interesting illustrated talk about Clogher Diocese. Doreen was pleasantly surprised to find our winter was much milder than in Ireland where temperatures can drop as low as -18C and their cattle have to be housed from November to April. The Mothers' Union in Ireland has launched a campaign called, "Bye Buy Childhood" initiated by parents' concerns over the commercial pressures for young girls to grow up prematurely, to wear sexualised clothes and make up. Nowadays, children can access all kinds of things on the internet - worrying some parents. The British Government has set up a Commission of Enquiry and asked Reg Bailey, the CEO of the Mothers' Union, to head it. The report is leading to some changes.

After lunch, some local farms were visited and next day, the party moved on to the Wairarapa in lovely weather, stopping at the Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre before arriving to a warm welcome from the Mothers' Union at Epiphany Church, Masterton. A delightful Ceilidh was held in the evening, a number of people forming an informal band to lead singing while individuals and groups, including the Irish ladies, offered items. Back in Wellington, they visited the Cathedral, old



Doreen with Anne Town (left) and Leila Pilkington, (right).

St Paul's; Parliament grounds; Lambton Quay; went shopping and took in local sights before Doreen and her party flew to Queenstown to continue her New Zealand visit.

At **St Mark's, Wellington**, new **MU Provincial President Iritana Hankins** (centre), is seen here enrolling her daughter Joyce-Anne, surely a 'double first', since Iritana is also the first Maori woman appointed to her post.



Four-year-old Sophie Brownlie is pilot of this "aircraft" at Wigram Air force Museum, Christchurch. Her mum Rachel, grandmother Marion and members of **Fendalton Parish Afternoon AAW** thoroughly enjoyed a visit which included a guided tour, a walk through a reconstruction of a 1940's home and afternoon tea from the same era. (Since the earthquakes there are fewer bone china teacups and 3-tiered cake plates than there once were.)



As *Circle* goes to press, our **Diocesan Festival Communion** is to be on 26 October at St Christopher's, Archdeacon John Sheaf will be taking the service. Our festive supper is being provided by members of the AAW, Diocese of Wellington. This generous gesture is one of particular caring and love. *Adrienne Robinson*



Diocese of Christchurch

Hope and renewal! These words took an immediate

powerful and personal meaning for me as I looked at the photograph of our Diocesan AAW banner. It is held high by Cathedral staff member Heritage Consultant, and Lay Canon, Jenny May, on Wednesday 21 September, the day of its retrieval from the ruins, where it had lain in the damp and grit for eight months. It is not colonised by mildew or mould, thankfully. It will be carefully professionally cleaned and restored perhaps in time for our Festival Communion. Even if it were to be displayed in its present state, what a precious and poignant symbol it would be!



Earthquake recovery. All manner of help arrives from AAW members around the country. From cash sent, we have made \$500 donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation which has not been able to raise funds through its usual Street Day Appeal, The Foundation for the Blind, and the Te Waiora Trust (Hororata), and \$2000 each to the organising of a Woolston Community Day, and to St Chad's Linwood where much on-going community support and weekly meal is provided. This latter donation has completed the fundraising for the purchase and installation of a sterilizer and other needed kitchen equipment. Members are involved personally in activities ranging from community service to providing plants for people moving out from 'Red Zones'.



Diocese of Auckland

AAW 'Escape' at Vaughan Park. The subject this year was "Is the Bible Relevant?" The Revd John Fairbrother led us through a discussion encouraging us to see the Bible as our 'touchstone', central to everything we do and say. As Anglicans, we have our Bible in one hand and our Prayer Book in the other.

Session 1. The topic 'Fun Fantasy and Frustration' saw three groups using several versions of the Bible and looking at 'fun, fantasy and frustration' in each, coming up with good examples. We all agreed that some versions of the Bible seemed watered down and for that reason it was good to go back to the King James' version at times.

Session 2. 'House-plans are Useful'. We looked at the 'household of the Church', a community of love, peace, and grace. Our groups took one subject each: The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, or the Lord's Prayer. From them, we looked at how we construct our values.

Session 3. 'The Power of the Narrative'. John posed the question: "How do you know what is Church?" Answer: "It is where people are worshipping in the name of Jesus." John encouraged us to read the Bible deeply and with an open mind to seek the truths and to understand the myths, metaphors, and stories - and to be unafraid to question, to share stories, disagree on thinking and go back to the Bible. Jesus came not to change the 'Word' but to reveal the 'Word'.

Session 4. 'Praying the Scripture'. In groups again, we had to choose a theme and with a psalm, hymn and prayer reflect how this made the Bible relevant in our lives. There were some different and very interesting results.

Our final session was 'From Here to Home', a round-up of what we had learned and discovered. Our thinking had been extended, we looked at things in different ways and we could have spent at least a week on the subject.

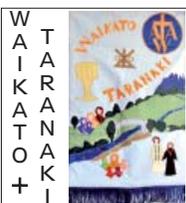
John encouraged us to take this back to our parishes and to continue the discussion. Vaughan Park as a venue added to the experience and most felt enlivened, invigorated, and ready to face the challenges ahead. There was a feeling this was a beginning not an end.

In August, a **Warkworth AAW** member organised a 'Buns, Soup and Dessert' affair at her home. Laurel Becroft (right) invited members of the parish to attend and raised over \$200 for St. Chad's Church Friday meals at Christchurch. AAW members and parishioners who could not attend donated money. Recently the Revd Dianne and Kevin Hawken visited Christchurch. Their account underlined Auckland's need to be aware of the on-going day-to-day needs in Christchurch. *Vivian Pollock.*



The **Southern Region Area Day** was at **St Aidan's Remuera**. It was good to see so many members attending, as well as some from Mothers' Union, including the Revd Iritana Hankins, now the MU Provincial President. The theme was 'Bible-in-Schools today'. Speakers were from the Churches' Education Commission: Christian Education in State Schools director Cedric Wilson, Diane Scarrow, advisor, and Christine Farmiloe, a teacher of Bible in Schools. It was great to hear that the Christian Religious Education (CRE) programme is in many state schools around Auckland, and that many have chaplains. Schools are to teach values - what better way to do this but by CRE?

Thanks to our hosts, the St Aidan's Women's Fellowship. The church service was conducted by the Revd Jeny Terrell, Nan Woods brought along AAW stationery and looked after Paulene's Pantry and Rosemary Atkins had her books for sale. All in all, it was a very encouraging day.



Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Holy Trinity, Stratford AAW group consists of young women all of whom are working outside the home. This means they are not able to share in some of the AAW Archdeaconry gatherings.

However they arranged a special service in September and invited other groups to join them at a 10.00 am Sunday Service. AAW and MU members travelled from New Plymouth to join about 70 members of the congregation in a special service which included a presentation by the Revd Peter Barleyman on *e-town*, the youth drop-in centre based at All Saints' Church in Eltham. The DVD presentation was made by the young people themselves and gave an excellent overview of what is on offer and how much *e-town* is appreciated. Peter said Mary Sumner's vision for families when she founded the Mothers' Union was being continued through the involvement of AAW, and that *e-town* was part of the vision still today.

Four Lone Members spent a pleasant couple of hours together at Rangiriri in the north of the Diocese. They visited the cemetery of the historic land wars of 1863 and the museum across the road with its displays of hand-drawn maps, newspaper cuttings, photographs and household equipment, including an early wooden washing machine operated by manually turning the handle! Lunch was enjoyed surrounded by many items from yesteryear.



Women's Groups in Taranaki have enjoyed sharing in one another's Patronal Festivals, when following the church service and lunch, a guest speaker shares something topical in the way of news or theological insight. These ecumenical opportunities are a great way for women from different churches to learn and share together.

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Diocese of Waiapu



Waiapu Vanuatu Pilgrimage. During the past four years seasonal workers from Vanuatu have been welcomed in worship and friendship at Waiapu Cathedral. Over that time a special relationship has developed and last year a Vanuatu pilgrimage was suggested to further grow the understanding of each other's culture and faith. After much planning and consultation 12 eager pilgrims set off on 23 July 2011, led by Dean Helen Jacobi and the Revd Dorothy Brooker; a journey that would enrich all in so many ways.

We stayed at the Coconut Palms Resort in Port Vila, which proved a very comfortable and centrally situated home, with charming staff, various restaurant areas, a swimming pool and pleasant grounds. Our week's programme was a busy one but each day began quietly in a pretty thatched roofed area, set aside for us for prayers and breakfast.

We participated in various Masses at the Tagabe Church of the Resurrection and the Fres Wata and Seaside temporary Church Shelters. At each venue the pilgrimage group was warmly welcomed and showered with gifts of leis and lava lavas. It was a joy to mingle with the congregations during refreshment times after the services. We met with several Mothers' Union women at Tagabe including the Regional Leader, Jeanette Faranieo and the Parish Leader, Rosemary Willie. Their particular concern was raising money to send leaders into the remote villages to train local women. This was considered better than bringing the local women into a central training area because there was no support when they returned home. It was lovely to see the Mothers' Union women at the services proudly wearing their blue skirts and white blouses.

Monday was a Public Holiday to celebrate Children's Day and the group led a variety of activities for about 30 children at Tagabe Church. Other days we visited the Melanesian Brothers at Paterson Household at Teouma, about half an hour out of Port Vila; the Seafarers' Mission and the men's low risk prison, and we had informative meetings with Commissioner Bill Dobbie and his deputy at the NZ High Commission and Principal Jacques Gedeon and his deputy at the Kawenu Teachers' Training College.

It was a real privilege for our group to have Dorothy with us. She and her husband, Arthur, were missionaries on Ambae Island in the 1960's and her husband's grave is situated there. Many of the local people knew her or of her and she was very warmly welcomed wherever we went.

We were honoured with two lovely farewells. The first was a BBQ at the home of Humility, the daughter of Philip Welin who is the leader of the Vanuatu workers while they are in Hawke's Bay. The second was held in the Tagabe Church Hall where all the parishes were represented. At both occasions we were introduced to the kava ceremony, given wonderful food, speeches, songs and gifts to remember our very special time in Vanuatu and the Ni Vanuatu.

St. John's Family Fellowship, Dannevirke has made up Christmas Child shoe boxes for the last 3 years. Last year we sent 20 boxes, with some members giving towards the postage, through the Samaritans' Purse Organisation. 340,000 children in South East Asia and Pacific Islands received boxes from Australia and New Zealand, a powerful message of God's unconditional love for children and the whole community. Dannevirke member, Ann Hardie opened her home to the public and \$145.00 was raised through a 'gold coin entry' (free for children) and a Devonshire tea for a further gold coin. . *Cath Ryan*

Hastings St Matthew's Afternoon Family Fellowship's musical afternoon on Tuesday, the 13 September was a farewell concert by our Music Director, Colleen Rae-Gerard. After five years in our parish, Colleen and her husband Michael Grafton-Green are leaving Hastings to work at the Australian National University in Canberra.



Colleen gave a superb performance with pieces by Mozart and Schubert. She has given concerts at the NZ High Commission in London, in Scotland and Vienna. Our tenors, Dennis Hancock and the vicar Graeme Pilgrim, sang solos and finished with a duet. Mezzo-soprano, Averill Callisen gave a polished performance in German and French. Colleen finished with a resounding finale on the organ with JS Bach's Toccata in D major.

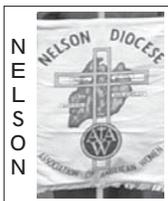
Our Leader, Gay McNab, presented gifts to the singers and a gift and flowers to Colleen. We finished with afternoon tea in the hall. \$164.40 was raised from the \$2 door fee. Visitors also had the opportunity to view the finished restoration of St. Matthew's, which has won the Landmarks History Award.

Santa Claus and Starlight and Waiapu Cathedral's Afternoon Fellowship. *Starlight* must surely have been inspired by Bethlehem's own 'Star of wonder, Star of light'. It was the dream wish – an idea – of two grandmas wanting to help people who needed special psychiatric care, and who were lonely, hospitalised, and perhaps without a family. Lack of money did not daunt them and so businesses, pharmacies, farmers – and just people individually - were approached. Donations flooded in. "God has done such incredible things with this venture of faith" they recalled.

Members of St John's Cathedral's Afternoon Fellowship all became Santa's little elves for a while. Each member brought a present of toiletries for patients in Hastings Psychiatric Health Unit. The Spirit of Christmas 'Present' really graced their last meeting for the year. Anyone for 'Star light' this Christmas?

St John the Baptist AAW, Te Puke. The celebration of Matariki, the Maori New Year is becoming very popular. We decided we needed to know about the celebration and the reasons for it. Near Te Puke is Maketu, the landing place of the Te Arawa canoe, and the home of a lovely primary school. The principal said that she would come and bring some of the students who would present a *powerpoint* programme for us. We were lucky to have two boys and two girls from Year 6 (the seniors of the school) to give us a presentation on the subject.

They stood up before us and confidently explained what it meant. It must have been quite daunting for them to speak to 25 women whom they did not know! Matariki is a time of harvesting, preparing and preserving food, singing and feasting and, most of all, a time to remember our ancestors. It is celebrated throughout the month of June when the Matariki constellation of stars, also known as Pleiades, is visible in the early morning sky.



Diocese of Nelson

Nelson Cathedral AAW enjoyed hearing Jane van Tilborg, the Organ Scholar at the Cathedral, talk about her life. She grew up in Hastings, England, studying music and chemistry at university. A career in the international oil industry involved the aviation and motor industries in the UK, South America and the USA. Now following a music career she arrived in Nelson and was appointed as Organ Scholar.

Waimea Women's Fellowship members were enthralled with the story of Amy Hindley's life. Born in England with spina-bifida she became a ward of the state and lived her early years between an orphanage and hospital having numerous operations. Aged 15 she began a crusade to get her legs amputated so she could walk with artificial ones. She achieved that at 18 but being "disabled", she was not considered "worth" educating. She learned to read and write after she married. How she overcame a life of illiteracy, disability, heartache, tragedy and anguish to discover a full life is documented in her book *Not a Leg to Stand On*.



St Thomas' (Motueka) AAW Fellowship Group hosted the Combined Churches' Spring Festival recently. After a short service, the Revd Marge Tefft from Greymouth gave an inspirational talk about her spiritual journey and subsequent ordination and marriage. Lunch followed with everyone enjoying a catch-up and fellowship while the men did the dishes.

Holy Trinity AAW, Richmond, heard a fascinating talk by Marina Bennett, a senior teacher at Waimea Intermediate. Marina, who has family roots in Crete, spent most of her sabbatical year researching the interaction between the people of Crete and the ANZACs, during, and immediately after World War II. With the aid of a power point presentation she talked of how she met old soldiers and how some of them spoke for the first time about their war experiences. Their stories have been gathered into a book which she has published with the support of the Nelson Museum called "Shelter from the Storm" - Stories from Crete.

Indulgent Recipes from the South

Chocolate Slice (Micro-waved)

1 cup flour	1 tbsp cocoa
½ cup sugar	1 cup coconut
1 tbspn vanilla essence	125 gms butter

Mix melted butter into dry ingredients. Add essence. Spread into slice tray which fits your microwave. Cook on high 3½ mins. Ice with chocolate icing when still warm.

Chocolate Dream

4 slices brown toast bread [bread crumbs].
 ½ cup brown sugar
 1½ cups drinking chocolate
 1 litre whipped cream
 1 chocolate flake

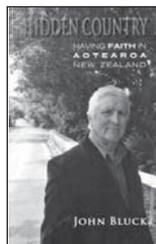


Mix dry ingredients together. Layer in a flat bowl, starting and finishing with a layer of whipped cream. You should have about four layers of cream and three layers of bread crumb mix.

Decorate with grated chocolate. Refrigerate for 10-12 hours.

One variation is to have a layer of raspberries or mixed berries - but these should be drained well.

No-one believes that this dessert is made from bread crumbs!



'Hidden Country' - still available from AAW

John Bluck's book tells how Anglicans have changed over the past 50 years. Copies may be obtained from Elizabeth Crawley, 13 Moorhouse St, Taradale 4112. 06 844 6303. kevincrawley@xtra.co.nz \$35 with \$1.80 for postage. Please make cheques payable to AAW NZ.

The Otago and Southland 'Square'

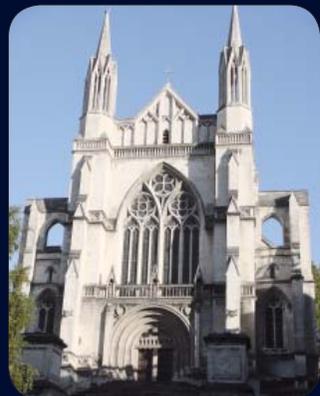
- on the Provincial AAW Banner.

The crest is that of the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin. Gold thread stands for the Octagon in the centre of Dunedin City – fronted by our Cathedral Church of Saint Paul.

Mountains and lake represent Central Otago with the high mountains being the Southern Alps. The albatross colony is on the Peninsula - visited by many people. There are a number of lighthouses on the East Coast of Otago and Southland.

The blue-eyed penguins are very much protected and are on the coast from Oamaru south. Tuatara stand for Southland - they are on view at the Southland Museum.

The Celtic Cross was given to the City of Dunedin by its Christian Churches to mark the birth of the Christian faith over 2000 years ago. This is to remind future generations of their heritage through the arrival of the first Christian settlers there.



*Designed by
members of
St Michael's
and All Angels,
Anderson's Bay,
Dunedin, evening
group.*

Dunedin Cathedral

