

Circle

Volume 49, No. 4 November 2017

**Christmas Appeal
for Hope p9**

**Dreams and
Visions p14**

**What is in Your
Purse? p24**

The Association of Anglican Women



Theme for 2015-2018:

Grow in Discipleship, Dreams, Dedication

The Aims of AAW:

-to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church

-to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life

Contributions for *Circle*

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

Diocesan Coordinators: All copy should be emailed to the *Circle* Co-ordinator, Pat Vincent, patvincent999@gmail.com.

Text: It can be in the body of an email or attached as a Word document.

Photos: High Resolution original jpg files or raw digital photo files. These will be ***large separate files, not pictures included in a Word document.***



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Cover Photos: Front : Pohutukawa

Back Cover: Magnificent magnolia

Copy deadline for the next issue:

30 December

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

From the Editorial Team

This issue of *Circle* marks the end of the Wellington Team's first year of producing this quarterly publication and we are certainly enjoying the process.

We again thank all who contribute to the magazine. We are receiving photos, articles, poems, reports and other items that are broadening the range and diversity of the content. 'I read the Spring issue in one sitting; I couldn't put it down,' was one reader's feedback to us, and that is the reaction we hope to generate in all of our issues. If there is a topic you would like us to explore, please let us know, for your input is valuable.

This issue includes several inspirational and dedicated women: the Mothers' Union founder and several AAW members. We are very lucky to have these role models.

The images on the front and back covers are reflecting the

festivity of Christmas, when Jesus, the Light of the World, was born; and the theme of Advent, a time of Hope. The Editorial Team wishes you all a very happy and Blessed Christmas, and safe summer holidays.

Till our February issue, God Bless.

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40 years of Ordination of Women in NZ

In 1977, five women were ordained as priests in NZ. The Collect below commemorates 40

years of the ordination of these women. This Collect will be used nationwide on Sunday 3rd December.

*God, who has created us in your image,
as we remember 40 years of the ordained ministry of women in these lands
may the gift of memory become our treasure,
may our present time celebrate prophetic voices
that we may offer vision and hope for the future.
Through Christ Jesus, who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Twelve Days of Christmas



The carol, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, dates back to the 16th century. Even though its precise author is unknown, it is generally assumed to have been written by the English Jesuits as a catechetical device during the persecution of Catholics in the dreadful Penal

Times. Convents and monasteries were closed and looted; priests were exiled and forbidden under pain of death from returning or performing the sacraments. But many brave priests did return, and in hidden secret meeting places the Sacraments were celebrated, and the people were taught the One True Faith. This

carol, appearing as a merry tune with amusing lyrics, was in reality a song of instruction with hidden meanings to transmit the basic teachings of the Faith during this desperate terrifying time.

<https://catholicismpure.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/12dayschristmashallmark1.jpg?w=640>

Dear Editorial Team,

As a newer member, can you please explain to me the reasons and/or history behind the banner processions at AAW regional gatherings?

'Curious'

Dear Curious

The team feels that it's a tradition that has grown over the years. It's a good tradition because the presence of the banners symbolises the group members who are unable to attend.

If anybody knows the origin of this tradition please let us know.

Similarly, the origin of the AAW badge.



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President's Notes

Dear Members

As I write this the sun is shining, the tuis are singing in our kowhai tree – a hopeful sign that summer is on the way and moving into Advent as we await the coming of Christ.

Brian and I recently returned from 2 months overseas; a wonderful time, beginning in Houston and then on to England where we spent 5 lovely weeks with our son and family. William 4, and Lucy 2, kept us on our toes as we spent many happy hours at the local park. Then it was off to magical Venice to begin our 10 day Greek Island Cruise. We had beautiful warm, sunny weather and saw some wonderful places - Santorini, Mykonos and Corfu; also some amazing archaeological sites, including the Acropolis, Parthenon and the site of the original Olympia at Katakolon. In Corinth we stood at the place where St Paul had preached to the local people and wrote the letters to the Ephesians. On our way home we spent 4 interesting days in Tokyo.

After our return I represented our Diocesan women at Synod in Palmerston North, where I was also elected onto the Nominations

Panel. “Will You Grow?” was the title of Bishop Justin’s address. He challenged us to focus on growing our churches and mission units to spread the Gospel. This theme is very timely for us AAW members.

Provincial Executive Meeting:

We met for our six-monthly meeting here in Wellington from 7th - 9th October. On Sunday we held our AGM at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul in the lovely Lady Chapel and attended by a good number of our women from around our diocese. Our Wellington Chaplain, Archdeacon Elizabeth Body chaired the meeting and gave an interesting, fun talk on events in her life and the connections. Following the AGM we had our Commissioning at the Evensong Service. We processed in and out with our banners which is always a moving sight. Our Wellington Diocese’s Vicar General Archdeacon Julie Rokotakala delivered an inspiring sermon on the theme of wisdom. She spoke on mentoring, something our AAW women do well.

At our meeting we farewelled

Reverend Lola Koloamatangi, our President of Polynesia who finishes her term of office in November. We will miss her quiet and thoughtful contribution. It was lovely to welcome Cynthia Prince, our new President of Waiapu and to know that Waiapu is no longer in recess. It was nice to have Gillian Etherington represent Diane Higgins from Nelson and Margaret Wilson from Mothers' Union represent Joan Neild.

Our Executive Meeting was

very productive, with some new marketing initiatives:

- **Setting up a website** with all Diocesan pages linked, allowing us to be up to date with what is happening in Overseas and Outreach and Social Concerns.

- **A brochure** for all our groups to use as an invitation to AAW and to publicise their group. Groups will be able to customise this. Look for this shortly.

Our guest speaker was Vanisa Dhiru, the newly elected President



L to R: Back Row: Anne Gover, Cynthia Prince, Pam Hartley, Barbara Dixon, Janice Viles, Margaret Wilson. Front Row: Pip Harrison, Rev Lola Koloamatangi, Joan Honeyfield, Shelley Vette, Pat Vincent, Judith Mackenzie, Gillian Etherington

President's Notes continued

of the National Council of Women New Zealand. I have had the pleasure of knowing Vanisa since she first joined our Wellington Branch. She is a young, enthusiastic woman with a passion about the advancement of women and gender equality. Vanisa spoke about the change process the organisation had just undertaken, resulting in an altered structure and the Gender Equal NZ campaign. She also spoke about the 5-step process they undertook:

1. Determine where we are today
2. Identify what's important
3. Determine how, who, when
4. Implement
5. Continuously measure and review

Linking this process to AAW, we agreed that we have completed **Step One** through the 2015 Consultation Questionnaire and various initiatives, such as our "Gearing for Growth" with the Provincial Executive and the Wellington Diocese. Each diocese has now been asked to consider:

Step Two - Identifying what is important for AAW. We have asked our Presidents to consult with their members so we have your ideas in time for our next

Provincial Executive meeting in March. We are committed to growing our organisation and informing our communities of who we are and what we do. If you are in the Waikato/Taranaki Diocese please discuss this within your groups and send your deliberations to me. It is important to hear our members' voices.

Triennial Conference:

Planning is well underway and we are very excited about the programme and the well-appointed venue. The pamphlet with all the relevant information will be out in the New Year.

**Venue: Scots College, Wellington.
Date: 5 - 8 October 2018**

To all of you my very best wishes for a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year with your families.

*Blessings,
Pat*

Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Christmas Appeal for Hope

A young refugee from Syria is excited to be back at school. Like many other refugees, she has missed the opportunity to learn. Being able to read, write, think and calculate will help her no matter what happens next. These skills are portable – they will be important whether she stays in Lebanon or returns home to Syria. Education is an investment in her future.

Like every refugee, she is looking for a way out of overwhelming poverty and fear. Going to school provides a welcome escape from hardships at home. She can forget about the war that is so often the topic of conversation around her and focus on maths.

This Christmas, Christian World Service invites you to make hope the story for people who are suffering in poverty and injustice. Donations to the Christmas Appeal will mean Syrian refugee children

can go to school and/or attend extra classes in Arabic, Maths, English, computing and more. HIV and AIDS orphans in southwestern Uganda will be able to go to school now they no longer need to trek long distances each day to collect water. Families in the Pacific will be able to prepare and protect themselves from disaster as well as campaign for climate change.

The Christmas Appeal supports our local partners giving life and hope in 28 countries. With your support, they can turn the tragedy of injustice and poverty into a story of hope. For 72 years, churches have worked together to make hope our story. We cannot stop now when so many people and the planet are under threat.

Archbishop Philip Richardson has endorsed the 2017 Christmas Appeal, *Make Hope my Story*. You can find more resources or make a donation at: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/>. For posters and envelopes please contact CWS at cws@cws.org.nz



Inspirational Woman - Mary Sumner



It all started with Mary, wife of George, Rector of the Parish of Old Alresford. She was passionate about transforming the home-lives of Parish families, by helping the women to support one another in raising their children. Her husband was very supportive: “Just share your heart – God will do the rest.”

She was so nervous at the first meeting of the parish women, that she refused to speak, and asked George to take her place. In those days, it was very unusual for a woman to be a public speaker. However, George encouraged her to speak from the heart and it went so well that she found the courage to speak at future meetings. Her talks were inspired by her faith – it was practical and down to earth - “Remember, Ladies, to be yourselves, what you would have your children be”.

After groups with women became well established, she was asked to speak to the men of the Parish to help them to be more aware of what their wives did for them, to show more respect and love.

The meetings grew, and included women - old and young, rich and poor. Others heard about her work, and started groups in their own areas. In 1876, she founded “The Union of Mothers” – with a membership card and promise: To be given up, body and soul, to Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism, and that your duty is to train your children for his service”. In 1885, at a time when women speaking to large audiences was still unheard of, Mary Sumner was invited by the Presiding Bishop to speak to a packed church congress session for women in Portsmouth whose prime concern was to ensure children were adequately fed. Mary said: “Together, by the Grace of God... we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength”.

The MU movement grew, increasingly with the support of bishops, internationally as well as in England. Some key principles were developed, including:

“That the prosperity of a nation springs from the family life in its homes”

“That family life is the greatest institution in the world for the formation of the character of children”

“That faith is the foundation of family life”

“That the tone of family life depends upon the married life of the parents – and ultimately, that example is stronger than precept”

Mary Sumner was a living example of what she preached. From 1900 onwards, she and the members started to advocate on issues such as campaigning to stop children collecting alcohol from public houses for their families, for the age of marriage for girls to be raised from 12 to 16 and for the support and protection of unmarried girls with children.

When she died in August 1921,

4,000 women attended her funeral, a service of Thanksgiving. The last memory was one of her, on her feet in the sunlight, praising God.

She could not have conceived how the seeds which she planted would grow into a movement 4 million strong today, with members in 83 countries putting their faith into action, to nurture healthy relationships in families and communities, and to fight for social justice.

Abridged from an MU leaflet

*Contributed by Jo Shepherd,
Waikanae*

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

*All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as
possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou
by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I
speak,
the prayer I breathe, or the life I
live.
Amen.*

Social Concerns - All I Really Need to Know*

“Kim, Spud’s taking all the playdough,” wailed Riley.

“Stop it, I don’t like it,” declared Bodie, as Spud snuck another piece of the playdough from in front of him.

Kim looked at Spud.

“Wesley gave me his playdough,” he said. “And no-one was using that bit.”

“The others would like to have some too though, Spud. You like it when people share with you, don’t you?”

Spud guarded his pile of playdough. It sat, squat and large on the table in front of him. Sophie tried to sneak a hand over his arms to dig some out. He put his head down over the whole and hunched a shoulder against her.

“Come on, Soph,” said Bodie. “Let’s go outside!”

“Walking feet inside!” reminded Kim, as she sat down at the table. “I’m going to roll this piece,” she said, taking up Bodie’s small piece and passing Sophie’s to Riley. Mira arrived at the table.

“Can I have some?” she asked.

“You can have some of mine, Mira,” said Kim. “How about you two? Can we all give some to Mira?”

“Spud’s got most though. Why isn’t he giving any?” asked Riley.

“He’s got a point, Spud. We share things here, don’t we? If you give some of your big lot to Mira, then we can all get on and play, eh?”

“Don’t want to,” said Spud.

“But you’re not doing anything with it at present! I think you do need to give some to Mira now.”

Spud tore off a little piece and threw it across to Mira.

“Thanks for sharing, Spud – a bit more now. Come on – you’ve still got heaps!”

Reluctantly, Spud dug out a bit more and pushed it into the middle. He started to poke his lump of playdough.

“Are you going to thank Spud, Mira?” asked Kim.

“Thanks, Spud,” said the little

**All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* is a book by Robert Fulghum

girl, smiling. “I’m going to make muffins!” She started to fill the muffin tin. Spud watched her. He put some of his dough in one of the holes nearest him.

“Mine are strawberry,” he said.

“Mine are chocolate chip and vanilla,” said Mira.

“B’ueberry and chocolate,” said Riley.

“These ones are lemon and ... and ... marmite!” declared Spud.

“Lemon and marmite? Yuck!” said Mira. Spud giggled. “I’m having pineapple glitter icing!” Mira said. They filled the tin and Mira put it in the oven. Riley wandered off and Kim went to see what was happening in the next room.

“Turn it on,” said Spud. “I’m going to do more cooking. What shall we make?”

“I haven’t got any more playdough,” said Mira.

Spud looked at his lump; it was still quite big. He got the knife and cut it in half.

“Here you go,” he said.

“Thanks,” said Mira. “I’m going to make ... sausages!”

“Me too!”

Kim put apples in the lunches – Stephen’s, the girls’ and her own. She lifted one of the heavy saucepans off the stove and put the contents in an ice cream container. There, that would be a jump start on the work day. She wondered, if it would be the same old story with Spud and the playdough today. She emptied the other pan on to the bench and, having kneaded in a few drops of food colouring, put its contents into another container. She put the lid on and stood Stephen’s lunch on top of it.

“Here you go,” she said, as he flew into the kitchen, dropping his cup in the sink and a hasty kiss on her face. “Lunch and something for your Tax Working Group meeting. Have fun!”

By Pip Harrison

Dreams and Visions - Working with Refugees



Lyn Ashby holding one of the flimsy lifejackets used by refugees

Arriving on the Greek Island of Lesvos after a 37½ hour journey from New Zealand, I felt remarkably peaceful, energised and clear-minded. This was the beginning of a long-awaited fulfilment to serve God in overseas missions. Finally landing on the island God had shown me in a vision c 2001 was an amazing experience. I didn't know or understand back then, that this vision related to the current refugee crisis in Greece and Europe. After much prayer and seeking God over the ensuing years, all became clear a year ago and I made plans to travel to Greece to check out the refugee situation on Lesvos, with the hope of returning for long-term service.

For 35 days, I served as a volunteer with Youth With A

Mission (YWAM) at Moria Refugee Camp on Lesvos. YWAM volunteers come into the camp under EuroRelief, a non-religious NGO, set up by Christians to work in humanitarian crises with the UN. Since I arrived on my own and not with a team of others, I was placed in the YWAM 'A' Team for independent volunteers. We were accommodated on the YWAM ship *Next Wave*, moored in the marina at Mytilini, Lesvos' capital and 25 minutes drive from Moria Camp. The *Next Wave* is a 2-masted sailing ketch with sleeping spaces for 44 people.

Volunteers worked on three 8-hour shifts round the clock at the camp: 8am-4pm, 4pm-midnight and midnight-8am. My first shift was a Monday starting at 4pm. Lunchtime that day the team decided to visit the 'Lifejacket Graveyard' in the north of Lesvos where over-crowded, rubber boatloads of refugees arrive on Greek shores from Turkey. The stretch of sea between the two countries is only 6 kilometres. The Greek Municipality is continually clearing its shores of thousands of lifejackets and rubber boats drifting

down the coastline, dumping them as landfill in a valley near the tourist town of Molyvos. An eerie silence and stillness hovered over the mountains of lifejackets covering the land. Viewing the scene was moving and impacting as God stirred many things in my heart. Each lifejacket represented one person who came with hopes and dreams to have a wonderful new life in a rich European country far away from strife and war. Sadly these hopes and dreams were not based in reality.

Moria Camp is a former military prison with every semblance of a prison, including high chain mesh fences topped with coils of barbed wire and hefty gates with metal latches. Refugees were not prisoners; they were free to come and go as they wished, although they could not leave the island until they received papers to move forward in their asylum process or were deported back to Turkey.

35 days on Lesbos serving at Moria Refugee Camp opened my eyes to the plights of many people coming from 44 different ethnicities - Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri

Lanka and many African nations too - all seeking a better life in European countries, which they see as being very rich. Reasons for leaving their homelands are many and varied: war, persecutions, violence and terror; or for economic reasons because of drought, famine or past wars which caused livelihoods to decline.

Each shift at Moria Camp started with a briefing - always the rules, then anything important we needed to know, finishing with a devotional and prayer before splitting up to go to various areas within the camp. My work duties included: security on various sections' gates (making sure only refugees living in those sections entered), food distribution, sewing room where I re-sized XL clothing to SML, clothing giveaway, EuroRelief Information and teaching crochet to some Ethiopian women. As an English Language Teacher opportunities arose to teach refugee men one-on-one while doing gate security.

My feelings on leaving Lesbos were mixed - joy, as it was the initial fulfilment of my vision; sadness and frustration for refugees whose lives, already filled with

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Dreams and Visions cont'd

continued from previous page
trauma, were still in a hard place with hopes and dreams of moving forward to richer nations slowly dying as the reality of that not happening for most of them slowly sunk in. Just as the lifejackets at the 'Lifejacket Graveyard' were slowly being buried, so the dreams of the original wearers were also being buried. I will return for as long as necessary to walk alongside those that need to know love and be loved with the same love that Christ has loved me.

Lyn Ashby

Lyn Ashby is 67 years young. When she turned 65, it was NOT retire but REFIRE! God's call on her life has always been for overseas missions. YWAM was the vehicle God chose to move her in. After completing a Discipleship Training School and School of Missions with YWAM, she served in Indonesia with YWAM for 14 months. She had two visions the first around 1998 showing her Greece; the second around 2001 more specifically showed her a Greek Island. She subsequently discovered that YWAM was working



with refugees on the Greek Island of Lesbos and so she went...

Celebration in Papua New Guinea

Margaret Poynton was formerly Executive Assistant to former Archbishop Clyde Igará. She was involved in setting up administration and communications systems to ensure consistent mission and ministry development across the country. As part of her role she was, from February to July 2017, based at Newton College in Popondetta where she worked alongside staff and students providing administrative support, as well as teaching English and supporting the Women's Programme.

Margaret also visits various projects and groups supported by Anglican Missions such as St Margaret's Hospital at Oro Bay, The Sisters Community of the Visitation (Sister Beverley Tumbari), and both the Melanesian



Margaret and Sister Beverley Tumbari

Brotherhood and Society of St Francis. She also makes regular visits to Kerina Evangelists' College at Tsendiap, a

Overseas and Outreach



Margaret at the celebrations

15-minute flight with Mission Aviation Fellowship from Mt Hagen in the Highlands of PNG.

Margaret has now begun to work with the new Archbishop Rt Rev Allan Migi who was enthroned at All Souls' Church, Lae, on 3rd September (PNG Martyrs' Day). Margaret writes this about the installation of Rt Rev Allan Migi:

“It was a pleasure to see Rev Steve Maina from NZCMS two weeks ago at the Enthronement of the new Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. The day was bright and colourful, though I can't say the same about the weather, which was somewhat damp at times. It was also a delight to meet many other old friends and make new ones. The highlight for me, however, was

on the Monday following the event when the PNG Bishops sat with their fellow Bishops from Melanesia, England, Australia and New Zealand. They shared their challenges and their mutual hopes for the future of the Anglican Church in PNG.”

Cards from Cambodia

Mission Partners Anne and Anthony McCormick have been on deputation in New Zealand from Cambodia in recent months. I was very fortunate to meet Anne for half an hour in Christchurch, in which time I learnt a lot!

Anne and Anthony have had a very busy and successful time visiting link churches mainly in the South Island, with a brief visit to the North Island. They have had an adventurous time travelling around the South Island and encountered snow in the Lewis Pass. Anthony has also been busy doing repairs to their property in Redwood.

I asked Anne if the Cambodian language was difficult to learn. She replied that Cambodian has 86 vowels and two series of hard and

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Overseas and Outreach



Anne and Anthony McCormick

soft consonants which may be used depending on the context! That sounded formidable to me but Anne has nevertheless learnt to speak it.

The World Mate Hospital at Battambang where Anne and Anthony work has a good record for infection control, but the doctors, who are trained in the Khmer system, are not so strong on diagnosis – as many as four different medicines may be prescribed for any one patient, in the hope that one will work! The Cambodian government does provide some funding for health, but only for HIV and TB if there are programmes.

I was interested in the unusual

name of the hospital. It has its origins in history. The hospital was started by the Italians in 1998 and was then taken over by the Japanese in 2012. It was named “World Mate Hospital” by the Japanese and used to be funded completely by Japan. There is still some Japanese funding.

Much of Anne’s work with the patients is recuperative diversion therapy and she works with caregivers and nurses. Anthony does social work, which is relatively new in Cambodia and has two social workers and a counsellor, with a senior social worker now supervising while he is in New Zealand. Sokhim, Anne’s assistant since 2015, is very good at papermaking. The paper is made on a special machine, called “Hollander-Critter.”

Anne uses cotton and raw materials to produce the paper. The raw materials which are locally-sourced include coconut, sugar cane husks and banana tree trunks. Flowers from Bougainvillea bushes left over from the gardener’s prunings are used for dye. Anne also wants to introduce pineapple.

Overseas and Outreach



The best paper is made from a mixture of raw materials and cotton. Anne has her “missionary mules” who bring her cotton fabric.

The paper is made in several different colours, with the exception of green. Brown paper is made from coconut fibre and fabric such as silk; grey, from a mixture of denim and cotton. Blue and pink paper are made from cotton fabric only. Purple and orange are made from flannelette and beige from fabric.

The photo shows one of many designs made. Anne has been selling the cards for only \$2 but others think the price should be higher – maybe \$5. Anne hopes to set up a website so these cards can be sold in New Zealand.

Please pray especially for Anne

and Anthony as they return to Cambodia that they will have an uneventful trip and quickly feel at home again. May the wards at World Mate Hospital once again resound to the sound of Christmas carols!

Shelley Vette, Overseas & Outreach Convenor

Singing in the Solomons

Rev Sister Veronica recently returned to the Solomon Islands from the UK. She writes: “I would like to introduce myself to your Association. I am Rev Sister Veronica, the new Provincial Sister for the Community in the Solomons. Sr Kathleen is on absent leave from the Community and she is living with her family.

“May I thank your Association for the donation of SBD \$5,000 you sent us early this year. That money went to help us settle the outstanding bill we have for the water pump for the Novitiate. However, we still have SBD \$22,000 to complete the amount outstanding before the end of this year.

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Overseas and Outreach

“I am looking forward to working closely with your Association. I am also a Priest and a Chaplain to the Community here. I was ordained in the UK, but returned in February 2017 to take up this post. I am trying my best to raise the status of the women in this country. Also this year we started a kindergarten for the poor children living in the plantation and lots of children are attending it. On Sundays, they come for Sunday School and then we give them breakfast after that.

“Sr Emily, my Assistant lives with me and it gives me and the Sisters so much joy when the children sing and pray. They don't receive love and affection from their parents, because they are busy harvesting coconuts and cocoa.”



Solomons kindergarten



The Melanesian Sisters

Love and prayers from us in the Solomons, Rev Sister Veronica CSC (Sisters of the Church)

Diocesan News - Polynesia

Tongan Water Tanks

At our Provincial Executive Meeting it was agreed in principle to approve payment for the purchase and installation of three water tanks. Rev. Lola Koloamatangi said the

tanks will provide one each for Vava'u, Ha'apai and Tongatapu. Rev. Lola said: “On behalf of the Women in Tonga, I extend our big appreciation for considering and launching of raising money to fund the Water-Tank Project.”

Taranaki

It was a delight for us ladies of St Mary's Cathedral in New Plymouth to welcome over 70 guests from around Mt. Taranaki, as we celebrated the patronal festival of our church in August. Dean Peter Beck led the worship and our MU chaplain, Ailsa Claridge, challenged us to think of Mary and her life.

In the afternoon we welcomed Hilary and Nelson Lynch who told of the work in Bangladesh begun by Hilary's brother, Doctor Edric Baker, at the Kailakuri Health Centre. He worked to teach the local people how to keep themselves healthy and clean, and he trained many in basic health - a self-help routine. Hilary distributed a number of photographs to help us understand the difficult situation the clinic works in and the numbers involved.

Dr Edric Baker was so loved by the people he served. He was made a member of the NZ Order of Merit, acknowledging his many years of dedicated service. Since his death last year the work of providing basic health care is continuing.

Pamela Hart

Holy Trinity, Fitzroy, New Plymouth - Annual Women's Day

This annual gathering was recently held in our Church Hall, and hosted by our Association of Anglican Women. All AAW groups and other church women's groups from around North Taranaki, enjoy the warm fellowship.

Participants firstly attended a church service, then guest speaker, Rev Rodney Dunlop gave a very informative talk about the outstanding work of "Habitat for Humanity." In the near future, another group will be going overseas to build houses, this time in Samoa. The service collection that day will assist with buying materials.

Lunch was then served including the famous "Holy Trinity Soup". The proceeds of the raffle were given to the Golden Oldies Mission Development Fund. This year two members of our AAW are joining 24 other travellers around New Zealand for the Mission in Fiji. (See February 2018 issue for an update on this Mission).

Pam McAuliffe for the first time, and Norma Benton.

Diocesan News - Auckland

St Peter's Takapuna

A very interesting meeting was held at St Peter's, Takapuna. Our speaker was Alannah Wesche who is responsible, alongside Amanda McKay, for the running of the GEE (Gender Equity and Empowerment) Nepal Trust, that oversees an orphanage in Nepal.

Alannah is a very passionate young lady and believes she is where God wants her to be. She is currently studying nursing.

GEE Nepal exists as a non-profit organisation which was inspired by GEN, a successful Girls Education Program in Nepal for 10 years. Their mission is simple: 'to empower girls through education' and give them a better future with job opportunities, to provide for their families.

They actively seek girls whose



Alannah Wesche from GEE

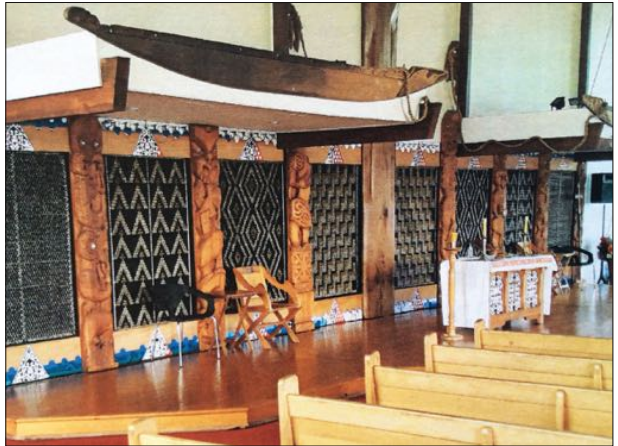
situation is particularly vulnerable – girls in poverty who otherwise would have no chance of going to school. All girls are welcomed regardless of age, religion, location, previous education, or background.

Janice Cooper

The Sanctuary panels at the Anglican Marae Church at Mangere

The story of the Sanctuary panels at Te Karaiti te Pou Herenga Waka is one of creation and the arrival of the gospel to Aotearoa. This is told through the 9 Pou (carvings) beginning with Adam and Eve on the far right; Papatuanuku (Earth Mother) and Ranginui (Sky Father) far left.

The Pou in between tell the story of Mohi (Moses); Oihi where the Gospel first arrived in Aotearoa; the prophet Elijah the Old Testament prophet; Kai-Kauhau symbolises the first Maori evangelists; Pita (disciple Peter) the chosen one and the rock upon which Jesus founded the Church; Momotu signifies a similar theme to Pita; Te Poumanawa (main centre pole) is Te Karaiti te Pou Herenga Waka, it is here the theology of the sanctuary stands.



The tukutuku panels are Purapura Whetu (star dust); Kaokao; Patiki (flounder designs); Poutama (growth of man striving ever upwards).

Kowhaiwhai paintings depict the creation of the wind and the sea. The two canoes on either side of the Sanctuary represent Tikanga Maori and Tikanga Pasifika.





'What's in Your Purse?'

Diocesan President Anne Gover recently visited the three groups in North Otago at an Oamaru Area Day.

Following the Eucharist she challenged members about what they kept in their purses. She began with a quick game where points were scored for articles that were in members' purses! What we carry in our purses can remind us of our roles as Christian women.

Cell phone – Communicate with God through prayer – *1 Thess 5:17-18*

Keys – Have faith – *Hebrews 11:6*

Driver's Licence – Identify as a Christian – *Romans 8:16-17*

Credit Card – Consider what treasure we are investing in – *Matthew 6:19-21*

Sunglasses – Look at others through Christ's eyes – *Philippians 2:1-5*

Packet of Tissues – Have a tender heart for others/tears – *Romans 12:15*

Hand Cream – Give soft and gentle answers – *Proverbs 15:1*

Hairbrush – Brush away worries – *Philippians 4:6-7*

Lipstick or lip balm – Give praise and singing – *Psalms 71:23*

What's in Your Purse?



JOKE

As the bus pulled away, a woman realized she had left her purse under the seat. Later, she called and was relieved that her bag had been found. When she went to pick it up, several off-duty bus drivers surrounded her. One handed her two typewritten pages,

her purse, and a box containing the purse's contents. "We inventory everything we find. It's all there," he explained. As she started to put everything back into her purse, he continued, "May we watch? We all tried and failed to get it all back inside. We're curious as to how you do it!"

Diocesan News - Wellington

St James', Lower Hutt - Tales and Treasures

We were asked to bring a piece of china of special significance in our lives. We had a meeting filled with nostalgia, childhood memories and beautiful objects.

There were valuable antiques and small objects with no provenance but the memories of their owners. A tiny white and gold angel with no hallmark but a poignant reminder of her twelfth birthday, a swan-shaped eggcup which came with an Easter egg about eighty years ago and used for every boiled egg since then. There were tiny pottery cats from Assisi, a hot water jug which arrived in one of the first four ships to Canterbury, a tiny bottle of confetti which the page boy picked up at the wedding of a member's parents, an exquisite piece of modern glassware from Melbourne and a stunning "trial" piece of Moorhouse pottery from Stoke-on-Trent. There was a large cup and saucer which was used when the bishop visited and a tiny Welsh vase given by the owner's

grandfather because she had a Welsh name.

The story telling was moving. Voices changed as memories were reawakened. The eggcup was passed around with as much care as the valuable eighteenth century cup and saucer. We had glimpses of each other's lives and that too was valuable.

Pamela Cook



Waikanae

On Wednesday 9 August the Waikanae branch of AAW/MU held a fund-raising lunch for our AFIA (Away from it all Holidays) programme. We hope to host another family early this coming summer at El Rancho. There were about 30 plus attendees from Waikanae and the wider Kapiti

Coast in attendance and \$180 was raised. As this was Mary Sumner Day we made her the focus of our meeting. We read her prayers at midday and after lunch heard a brief extract of her life story. Anne Carpenter provided a display board of photos relating to MU activities (see Mary Sumner story on page 10).

St John's Oroua Women's Fellowship Activities

July saw 29 members come together to share a happy afternoon on a miserable winter's day, enjoying a 'Christmas' lunch organised by the committee.

The Overseas Mission meeting held in August, had visitors from Taihape, Whanganui and Palmerston North. Our guest speaker, Nancy Goodwin, gave an enlightening talk on her life's faith journey. This was followed by an informal Eucharist, also held in the hall, presided over by Rev. Sarah McMenamin.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who supported the Operation Christmas Child Boxes.

This included donations of goods for the boxes, money for the postage and time given to pack with love the 80+ boxes – a great effort for Overseas and Outreach.



A few members had a good discussion on Social Concerns NCWNZ Remits.

May we all be revived for the upcoming festive season.

Elizabeth Heath, Co-ordinator



Diocesan News - Nelson

Blenheim South

Marlborough Regional AAW day was held at St Christophers Anglican Church Blenheim on September 6th. The roll call revealed Picton [6] Nativity[10] and St Christophers [15] members were present.



After morning tea the AAW joined in with St Christophers weekly traditional communion service. This was followed by the AGM which was chaired by Dean Rev Richard Dyer. Following a time of fellowship over lunch, our guest speaker, Margaret Conway, gave an interesting summary of her life from Primary school at Seddon; a boarder at Nelson College for Girls; to Canterbury University. Overseas travel took her to London and Paris. On return to NZ, Margaret taught at Southland Girls

High for 15 years, then to Bible college. This was followed with 16 years as a Librarian at Turangi Prison. Margaret brought a lot of props for her talk including Albert the Hen, and a Proboscis monkey she got in Brunei. Upon retirement Margaret returned to Blenheim and became a Lay Preacher at St Christopher's. Missions, books and embroidery are her passion.

Joy Jermyn, Leader, St Christopher's, Blenheim

All Saints' Women together

July Meeting: We gathered for an afternoon tea in the Tibble Room at All Saints' church which enabled members who do not go out at night to join us. We had an impromptu talk from Katherine and Chris Corrin, missionary friends of one of our members, on their work in Central Asia. An interesting talk and well illustrated with photos. Noeline gave a short talk on her recent travels to Scotland. So through the eyes and photos of other people we are a well-travelled group. We also welcomed two prospective new members to this meeting.

August Meeting: We gathered in the foyer at All Saints' church to

enjoy a shared tea and discuss remits from the National Council of Women. The remits were interesting and discussed at length.

Madeline McCrae

Waimea News

Waimea Women's Fellowship heard a fascinating talk from Anne Batten, a retired JP, Anne decided to train for a court JP. She studied law and as she worked she visited the police cells, went on patrol with the local policeman and learned as much as she could about drugs, and other things which helped her understanding of the cases that came before her. She learned about the sex workers of both sexes, a lot of bad language, the sad lives of some people and how bad people

can be to each other. She also saw how difficult the law can be for young people who can't afford to do successive driving tests so drive without them. She tried to make sure they did get their licence so they could then get jobs.

The Nelson Diocese AAW President, Diane Higgins, recently celebrated her 80th birthday.

The occasion was marked, both at Synod, and at an afternoon tea attended by many friends and family. Speeches made emphasised her life's devotion to the promotion of family life. The poem below was written and read to the gathering, by her daughter-in-law.

Pamela Petherbridge

Poem for Diane's 80th birthday

*Diane has gained a lot of experience over her 80 years of life
In partnership with Ron, as a dedicated wife
Together upon the family farm, they raised their brood of four
But looking around you can see you're the reason for so many more*

*And now you've turned adventurer as you traverse the globe
We hope you have the best of times fulfilling your lifetime goal
Faith has been your cornerstone, from which you've derived your strength
As you race around the countryside, supporting causes along its length
And so today Mum, we honour you for all that you have striven,
In your lifetime of achievement, and your service, simply given.*



Diocesan News - Waiapu

It is so good to be back. AAW in Waiapu had 4 months recess, but now we have a new President, Cynthia Prince, and we are going to be around for a long time.

We had a meeting in early September to answer 3 questions that Bishop Andrew posed to each group and Lone Member. The questions were:

- What are the activities, services and practical engagement of AAW groups and lone members in their local faith communities that are happening now?
- What are the range of skills that are represented through the AAW membership in Waiapu?
- How could the association

organise itself to be relieved of burdensome structures in order to focus on encouraging and building up the activity and ministry of groups and lone members to a sustainable level?

Most groups set up to a month aside to talk about these questions and where the group wanted to go into the future. The two Regions – Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty also talked about these questions from a regional point of view.

At our next meeting we again went into parish groups to further discuss these questions and one of the overriding factors was to not have our regional committees as these cost money and time.

It was decided that there would be representation on the Diocesan Executive for each area and that regional events will still happen.

There will be more changes to guidelines and structure at the next AGM.



This and previous page: Rev'd Deborah Broome commissioning the President Cynthia Prince, Secretary Jan Reisma, Circle Elaine Wood, O & O Shelley Vette and (hidden) Treasurer Gillian Dowd..



St John's Cathedral Group

St John's Cathedral group have been very busy and here (see photo at right) is the former Acting-Dean David van Oeveren blessing a lovely collection of knitted articles made by our group. About a dozen members meet once a month in the Public Library on Monday mornings, enjoying both the company and the coffee (provided by the Library). Apart from the useful and beautiful garments produced (singlets for new-borns and prayer shawls) it is also a form of community outreach. What a wonderful idea meeting in a community setting. It certainly puts AAW out there.



Diocesan News - Christchurch

Portrait of a Dedicated AAW Member

How many Association of Anglican Women (AAW) members have had four past Diocesan Presidents at their funeral?

“When that final, peaceful night ended and the morning sun pierced the darkness, Mother reached out her hand to God and he took it. It was a beautiful transition to heaven for a remarkable woman.”

Son Geoffrey completed his loving tribute to his mother at her funeral with these words. Rachel Ensor was a remarkable woman indeed who loved life and lived it to serve her God by serving others in very many ways. Much of this



Christchurch Past Diocesan Presidents: Joanne Gumbrell, Olive Gray, Ruth Harwood, Jan Deavoll at Rachel Ensor's Funeral at St John the Baptist Church, Rangiora.

story is taken directly from his tribute.

The AAW was one of the groups Rachel dedicated herself to. She was a member of the Rangiora group, probably since its

formation. She held many positions over the years, including that of Area Leader for North Canterbury, a large rural area.

Many AAW members will have memories of Area Days spent at Bullock Creek, Okuku. Rachel was well known for her wonderful hospitality in that country house and garden.

Rachel and her sisters were born and brought up in Isfahan, Iran to missionary parents William and Margaret Thompson. Her father was the Anglican Bishop in Iran. She and her twin sister returned to England for boarding school at age twelve. Due to WW2, they did not see their parents for five years, spending holidays with grandparents.



Rachel Ensor

During a trip to NZ she met and fell madly in love with a handsome, dashing farmer who was also flying fighter aircraft for the Territorial Airforce. Son Geoffrey said that 58 married years later it still seems a wild and romantic story!

For a young English woman, with a missionary Bishop for a father, an upbringing that included governesses, servants and finishing school, this next step in her life must have seemed a step into a very different, scary and at times, lonely world. Their home at Bullock Creek, nestled under Mt Thomas at the end of 20 kilometres of shingle road, must only have amplified that feeling! With courage and resilience, Rachel set about making a home that always enchanted those who visited, just as they were instantly charmed by her warm and generous hospitality.

No words can describe the impact felt by the loss of their daughter Christine in a skydiving accident in 1985. Over the years, along with husband Bill, son Geoffrey and grandsons Chris, Hector and Tom were constant sources of great pleasure to Rachel.

Animals were a great love. She was Patron of the North Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Pony Club. Red Cross also benefited by her support, as did many other organisations, particularly her local, country church. At her funeral, parishioners of St Martin's gave their own tribute.

Rachel never sat on the fence. Whatever the issue or cause, she would strongly, but respectfully, provide her views. She believed people should have opinions and the courage to stand behind them.

The AAW have been blessed by having Rachel Ensor as a member.

“This last year has been tough for Mother,” Geoffrey said, “And tough for those who knew and loved her. But it was over this last year that we saw her amazing spirit blossom and flower. She neither feared death, nor welcomed it; she accepted it as the doorway to heaven and she made the most of the time that remained to her on earth. Today is not only a celebration of Rachel's physical life with us; it is a celebration of life everlasting. Amen.”

Joanne Gumbrell

Mothers' Union - Provincial President



All my life I have been involved in the church. My parents and grandparents were very devout, and

always took us with them in all their endeavours. I was baptized in St. Luke's Church at Mount Albert, Auckland. My parents later took me to St. Jude's in Avondale where I remember collecting small scriptural stamps at Sunday School. I was confirmed at St Jude's, became a chorister at the Church of the Ascension in Point Chevalier, and was a keen member of the Young Anglican movement.

My father entered St. John's College when I was 13, having been a Lay Reader for some years. This changed our family life as after his ordination, we moved to New Plymouth where he became Curate at St. Mary's Church. Thereafter he was Vicar at Inglewood, Forest Lake, Putaruru, Tirau, and Te Kuiti.

On leaving school I had various jobs in the Waikato region before heading to Wellington to work. It was here that I met my husband Richard Neild. We have three children and eight grandchildren, and we give thanks to God for them all. I continued my love of singing as a chorister and joined Young Wives at St. Andrew's Church in Miramar, where I became the Young Wives' Archdeaconry Leader. After Richard was relocated to Auckland in 1981 we joined the congregation of St Aidan's Church in Remuera where I was again involved in the Choir, and became a Committee Member of the Women's Fellowship.

Since our retirement we moved to Orewa and now attend St. Chad's where I joined the Mothers' Union, continuing the family tradition set by my grandmother and mother. I have held the positions of Secretary, and Enrolling Member and was then asked to join the Auckland Diocesan Executive Committee as a Vice-President, and later became Diocesan President.

Now in the position of Mothers'

Recipe - Last Minute Christmas Pudding

If you, on Christmas Eve, suddenly have the need for a Christmas Pudding, here is the recipe for one that is light in texture. The longer you steam it the darker colour it gets. The pudding responds well to a smother of lit brandy before serving! Bon appetit.

Method:

In a lidded plastic 2-litre container, (such as an empty ice-cream container), mix 1 teacup of flour, a half-cup of sugar, 1 teaspoon of grated nutmeg, 400-500g mixed fruit.

In a small bowl, put 1

tablespoon of butter, 1 teaspoon of baking soda, and 1 tablespoon of marmalade. Pour over a cup of boiling water and stir till the butter has melted. Add this mixture to the dry ingredients and stir well. Cover and leave till the next morning.



On Christmas morning, put the mixture

into a well-buttered basin with a piece of buttered paper in its base. Cover and steam in a pot of boiling water for 2-3 hours. (Remember to drop a coin into the water...when the rattle stops the pot has boiled dry and your pudding will burn!)

continued from previous page

Union Provincial President in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, I cherish links with MU worldwide and especially in England and Australia.

I draw inspiration from our founder Mary Sumner and I invoke her personal prayer (see page 11).

Joan Neild

MU Conference in Australia

Seven ladies from New Zealand attended the MU Conference in Tasmania in September.

A report about it will follow in our February issue.



HOPE

Last lingering magnolia

Your magenta magnificence

Gone but not forgotten.

Branches once covered

In majestic maroon manta

Now reveal hardy greenness.

Reaffirming Creation's cycle

Of hopefulness once more.

*[Chris Robertson-Parkes, Lone Member
Waiapu]*