

The Association of Anglican Women
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CIRCLE

ST PAUL

TAKE THE YOKEL OF THE SPIRIT
WHICH IS THE WORLD OF GOD

SEND AND MAKE MINDS OF
YOUR HEART TO THE LORD

ST CECILIA



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

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From Our President

... *Margaret McLanachan*



A very Happy New year to you all.

I hope you have all had a much needed rest over the holiday period and are now ready, full of vigour and enthusiasm for the coming year with AAW.

My commissioning in November was a fabulous occasion with between 40 and 50 women from the Dunedin Diocese present along with my Vicar and the Bishop. (Further details can be found in the item from the Dunedin Diocese).

At the time of writing this things are quiet on the AAW front but we must remember that if possible February is the time for AAW Sunday and the commissioning of your Leader and team. If February doesn't suit you then choose another Sunday please so we keep AAW alive and well in each parish.

World Day of Prayer is celebrated at the beginning of March along with Ash Wednesday on 5th then we move into the season of Lent. Have you given any thought to what you will give up for Lent? – I haven't yet but will try to and endeavour to carry my plan out.

Best wishes to all of you who are in leadership roles for 2014. May it be a time of great experience for you all.

Easter Blessings

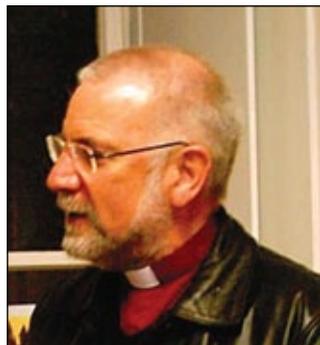
Margaret

The Gift of Embarrassment

by Bishop Kelvin Wright

I bought my first car in 1969. It was a 1938 Morris 8 Sports, for which I paid \$85. Although it would only do 55 mph flat out, and although the hood leaked so badly I actually kept drier by folding it down in the rain, it certainly looked the part with its red paintwork and chrome grille. Although my brothers cruelly said it looked like Noddy's car, I thought it was pretty cool. One day it was parked in Papanui Road, in Christchurch and when I finished whatever it was that I was doing and returned to my car a bunch of St Margaret's College girls had assembled by it. They weren't looking at me or my car, but were actually waiting for a bus. Not one to pass up such an audience, I walked nonchalantly up to my impressive transport and, without opening the door, leaped manfully and stylishly over the side aiming to land in the driver's seat and roar (well, more accurately, splutter) off. The aim had been to emulate John Steed, the central character of a current TV show who routinely entered his Bentley in that manner. Usually it worked. This time however, my bell bottomed cords (remember them?) caught in the driver's door handle as I sailed over it, and I crashed head first into the car, my head stuck firmly between clutch and brake and my long thin legs waving helplessly in the air. It took me a full five minutes to extricate myself, by which stage, thankfully, all the girls and their bus had gone, leaving me to chug off, yes, with a sense of deep humiliation, but more importantly, with a new and more accurate impression of who I am.

Pain and humiliation and loss can be gifts, and this occasion certainly was. In the early 20th century we have had our share of loss in the diocese of



‘Pain and humiliation and loss can be gifts’

Dunedin, as some of our congregations fade away sometimes to nothing, and a new generation of southerners seem largely indifferent to the tradition we have all held so dear. At about the time I started ordained ministry around 10,000 people worshipped every week in the Diocese of Dunedin; next Sunday around 20% of that number will attend. We have not suffered much in the way of earthquakes but new seismic regulations have meant expensive inspections of many of our buildings and the prospects of even more expensive repairs. It would be tempting to give way to despair and cynicism in the light of these facts, but I don't think that is what Jesus invites us to. Rather than bemoan the past the changes we live with are an invitation to reinvent the church. The Gospel of our Lord and Saviour is as powerful as it ever was and our fellow New Zealanders' interest in the meaning of life and in things of the Spirit

has never dimmed. We are invited to reforge the connections between these things, and the future, while unknown, is actually quite exciting. The loss of some of the trappings of the past invites us to ask important questions: what is the Church and why are we here? How can we best organise ourselves to enable our people to follow Jesus?

We have made good progress, over the past couple of years, in reshaping the infrastructure of our church, and changes will continue at a manageable pace for a couple of years yet. We have great people including some very promising new young leaders, and enough resources to do what we are called to. More importantly we have the presence of Jesus who has promised to be with us; so, as long as we keep listening and learning from our mistakes we can go into the future God has in store for us with anticipation and confidence.

***Reminder: Deadline for copy for
May issue - March 31***

“WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP FOR LENT?”

Lent
*is seen as
a time
for self-
examina-
tion*

Soon the season of Lent will be upon us and someone is sure to ask “What are you giving up for Lent?” Lent has long been seen as a time of preparation for Easter, although the church is now being beaten by the supermarkets who have Hot Cross Buns for sale as soon as the chocolate Santas are packed away.

The custom of fasting for Lent appears to originate from the practice of the early Church to baptize new Christians on Easter Eve. Those being baptized would fast for two or three days before their baptism. Gradually the length of the fast increased to the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve (excluding Sundays). By the time of the Reformation this practice was falling out of favour.

Now Lent is seen as a time for self-examination. This time can be marked by giving up something – meat, sweets, tobacco or alcohol. My daughter gave up using lifts one Lent – this was quite a challenge as she lived in a fifth floor apartment, and it gave me time for thought when I shared a third floor hotel room with her one weekend during that Lent.

However, you do not have to give up something for Lent. How about adding a daily Bible reading, times of prayer, taking part in a Lent Study or making a regular contribution to a local foodbank?

However you mark Lent, may it lead to a meaningful and joyful Easter.

The editor acknowledges the assistance of the Rev Alec Clark, Dunedin Diocesan Ministry Educator in preparing this article, also the website www.kingofpeace.org

THE DUNEDIN WINDOW



Featured on the front cover of this edition of Circle is a photo of the Dunedin window in St Paul's Cathedral. This information below has been kindly provided by the Cathedral.

This window was installed in October 2012 and was donated by Drs Donald and Stella Cullington. Donald was the Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster from 1975 to 1978 and Stella a General Practitioner. Peter Mackenzie, a foremost New Zealand stained-glass expert from Dunedin, designed and made the window.

There are several interwoven themes.

- Saint Paul and Saint Cecilia.
- The important role played by both Maori and Pakeha in bringing Christianity to Otago.
- The history of Early Dunedin and the Gold Rush into Central Otago.
- The physical beauty of the hills and harbour with its wildlife: plants, birds and animals.

Christ is above all and has central place at the top of the tracery. The double koru (Maori twin spiral) decoration around Him and the cherubs represents the pathways of faith between God and mankind.

Saint Paul, after whom the Cathedral is named, stands holding a Bible and a sword. The quotation from Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians below reads

- St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin

'Take the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God'.
Paul was also to die by the sword.

Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of Music and holds a portative organ. She represents the important place music holds in Anglican worship. The quotation below is also from Ephesians *'Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord'.*

Above are cherubs playing a shawm (early oboe) and an early flute. Above them are a viola da gamba (the predecessor of the 'cello) and an early horn.

The three portraits in the tracery are of Tamihana Te Rauparaha (above), who was instrumental in bringing Christianity to Otago; Johnny Jones (below left) who gave the land on which St Paul's now stands; and Tame Parata who helped to establish the church at Puketeraki, now known as Karitane. This church, Hui Te Rangiora (All Souls), is shown across to the right from the portraits.

Below these are the seven stars of Matariki (the Pleiades) which appear on the horizon in May and represent the start of the Maori New Year.

Above and below the two saints are six small pictures commemorating the early history of Dunedin, the first missionary churches, and the Chinese who made up a large part of the miners who came through Dunedin to the gold fields of Central Otago 150 years ago.

Look closely and you will see that St Cecilia is portrayed by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and St Paul by Bishop Kelvin Wright.



OVERSEAS AND OUTREACH

Mary Estcourt

As I write this it is the beginning of Advent. Summer is here on occasion and everything in the garden is growing rapidly. By the time you read this we will probably be experiencing water restrictions, holidays will be over and the new year will be under way.

There are many ways to remember those, overseas prayer being a large part of this. So keep the prayer going for all our Mission Partners. *"O God, give us persistence in Prayer, trust that you hear us, and joy in your surprising answers."* (from *In Other Words*)

From Rosie's October News:

My life here feels full and busy and overwhelming and exciting. Over the past week, I've sat with a Muslim friend who faces such bad sexual harassment from her professors at her college that she cried and told me how she doesn't feel pure; I've sat with a deaf young man who told me about the challenges of providing for his family as prices increase; I've sat with a family where the father sliced a layer of skin from his son's leg in punishment for being naughty; I've enjoyed leading worship and the Archbishop of York who was visiting tweeted about the 'uplifting worship'; I've sat with a hospital director to talk about a grant from the Japanese Embassy for a mammogram unit for breast cancer screening (there's only 1 serving 4 million people in this area); I've sat with priests to learn about the impact of an interfaith project

Thanks for all of your support and prayers. I am taking an unplanned leave in New Zealand from early December—mid January so will see many of you soon!

From Marion McChesney in Tanzania



It may have started with a shopping trip. The one where you bought something on sale, thinking you liked it, but never wore it much. Or maybe it was the wardrobe cleanout because you had no more room to stuff in the 'latest', the 'newest', 'must have' item.



From there it became a donation to a charity. Most of us stop thinking at that point and never know what might have happened next.

Here is an example of what happens-Msalato

Bible College annual Give Away programme. Our Chapel leader USA Sandy organizes to get things from overseas, donations, whole suitcases of stuff (mostly from her USA contacts).

This past week I was given these seven suitcases and boxes of 'stuff' to sort, and to distribute.

It began with sorting the stuff from the donations, into piles of men's and women's, shirts and skirts, trousers and blouses.

Anne and Anthony McCormick's October Blog on the effect of flooding in the area where they are serving:

There have been over 100 deaths, 1.5 million people have been affected, 250,000 hectares of rice paddies ruined, 400 kms of roads destroyed and pagodas and schools, not to mention houses, have been flooded. In the worst hit areas, people have been evacuated in droves assisted by Red Cross and other relief organisations. The situation is at least as serious as the floods of 2011, if not more so, although, to date, there have been fewer deaths. Some of those who died were children who drowned in their own homes due to the level of water inside. There are also nasty spin-off effects – such as contaminated water – which quickly bring about an increase in water-borne diseases, hungry people as, in a hot country where most people can't afford a fridge, they store only food for the day with nothing in reserve for emergencies.



Other newsclips:

Philippines: Many of you asked what AAW was doing about the havoc caused by the recent deadly typhoon to hit the Philippines. AAW Nationally responded immediately with a \$2000 donation from the Emergency O&O Fund.

Samoa: Rev Mike Hawke of the Anglican Missions Board showed me a clip of a group of women in Samoa thanking us for our support. This can be found on the following link: http://youtu.be/TN-w_tCAeVM

Jolene has recently been on Home Leave. I had intended to meet up with her however personal events in my family life meant this could not be.

Once again you can see that our funding for our Partners is being used wisely. Thank you for on going support for the projects we support. Thank you too to all of those Groups and Dioceses who have given extra towards the sewing machines for Melanesia.

Wishing you all the very best for the coming year and I may well get to meet some of you when I visit your Diocese.

MOTHERS' UNION

The Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki is linked to Meath and Kildare in Ireland through the Wave of Prayer, and it was with great interest we read of the choice of the Revd Pat Storey, a MU member, to be the first woman in the Church of Ireland to be made Bishop. This is even more exciting as we have elected the Revd Helen Ann Hartley to be the next Bishop of Waikato. We look forward to her Episcopal Ordination on 22 February. Pat Storey's service was held on St Andrew's Day in the historic Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Her husband Earl, a priest, read the Old Testament lesson.

Iritana Hankins, MU Provincial President, attended the Australian MU Council Meeting in November. The theme was "Bringing Our Gifts to Vision 20/20". She was invited to read the Lesson and Administer the Chalice during the very moving opening Service. Over 50 delegates and observers attended, including the Provincial Presidents of Melanesia and Papua New Guinea. Nicola Lawrence, Head of Action and Outreach at Mary Sumner House spoke about new directions being taken with various projects. Another speaker warned of the dangers of physical and sexual abuse of children, and for the need for Child Safety Protocols.

A full programme giving ideas for future activities and ways to carrying out the Aim and Objects made for a very worthwhile meeting.

Wellington MU is organising a Parent Encouragement Programme discussion weekend in February when forward planning about the programme will be undertaken.

Marjorie Nevin of Masterton hoped to meet with MU members in India but was unable to make contact. However she visited St Francis Anglican Church in



Gifts and household articles collected for the Men's Emergency Shelter



Cochin which is said to be the oldest church in India. The Epiphany Branch has celebrated 65 years and continues with men and women members.

St Mary's New Plymouth has come to the end of a busy year. Monthly meetings have been well attended and 3 new members have been welcomed. Guest speakers have spoken on topics related to two of the five Objects: 1) To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children and 2) To help those whose family life has met with adversity. At the November AGM Rosemary Bent was elected MU President of Waikato and Taranaki.

Most groups in Auckland include outings and other activities together with their monthly meetings. One involved Kathryn McIntyre of Kohi/Orakei branch presenting 'The Sermon on the Mount' (Mount Wellington, a small dormant volcano). She gave a short talk on the geology and history of the volcano and then spoke on the Beatitudes. It was a most enjoyable outing.

The Auckland MU AGM will be on 23 February, and a full programme for 2014 has been arranged.

The Mother's Union theme for 2014 is *Sowing the Future Together*.

Nominations for Provincial President: Papers will be sent out to members in March. Iritana is putting her name forward for a further term as Provincial President.

Rosemary Bent

**Contributions for the Circle
magazine are always
welcomed - Deadline for May
issue is March 31**

SOCIAL CONCERNS

As I write, I have a Christmas pageant fresh in my mind – a superhero play that reminded us that Jesus came to tell us that the kingdom is within us and among us, to show us what God's love is like and to bring release to prisoners and good news to the poor (as well as to defeat that Arch-enemy Sin!). We lit the Advent candles for hope and peace, with further gifts of joy and love to come.

At the same time I am seeing the outpouring of love and respect for Nelson Mandela at the time of his death. Many have been commenting that it was the absence of hatred after being so badly treated that set him apart as a truly great man. The truth and reconciliation process used in South Africa has been a stirring thing – people were not called on to forget what had been done to them but rather to tell it and move on in reconciliation and unity. He had a vision of kingdom values and was a prophet for our times, knowing about both justice and love. He said, 'As I walked out of the door toward the gate that would lead to freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.' Also, 'Our human compassion binds us the one to the other - not in pity or patronizingly but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our

(written December 2013 by Pip Harrison)

common suffering into hope for the future.'

Today on the radio I am hearing that one in four of our New Zealand children are living in poverty and one in ten in dire poverty. As we live out our AAW aims both of participating in the mission of the church and of nurturing Christian family life, these statistics must surely be front and centre for us.

When I commented to social workers at our local Women's Centre about the number of big issues in the air at present (the Constitution, euthanasia, the nature of marriage and reconsideration of abortion laws coming up), it was Child Poverty that they put at number one. Even though abuse can occur in any part of the society, they considered poverty the top 'enemy' in the work they do – along with alcohol and other drugs.

As we meet this new year (and as we consider what the important issues are in an election year), let's live out that kingdom that is within us and among us; the kingdom of our King, who loves justice and mercy both and who calls for the little children to come to Him because it belongs to such as them.

I'll finish with some more inspiring words from Nelson Mandela:

'Poverty is not an accident. Like

slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the action of human beings.’

‘Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice.’

‘We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always

ripe to do right.’

And lastly, ‘There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way it treats its children.’

What will we do this year?



AN EVENING PRAYER

– composed by the late Stan Cosham

Thank you God for a good night’s sleep, in a warm and comfortable bed.

Thank you for the home I have and the roof over my head.

Thank you for the means of heating for ever present power,

Thank you for hot water, for a bath or a shower,

Thank you for the nourishing food I will eat as I break my Fast,

Thank you for so many blessings right now and in the Past.

I’m a very fortunate person; I have much to thank you for,

But thanking you is not enough, I really should do more.

There are so many people who don’t have a bed or a home, or food to eat,

who are sick in mind or body- as they suffer the cold or heat.

Please help me to show compassion, not just show it, but do something

too - do something to earn my blessings, in a way that is thanking you.

Amen.

DUNEDIN DIOCESE

AAW NZ EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONING

On Saturday, 16th November, 45 AAW members from throughout the Dunedin Diocese and some visitors from other dioceses met at St John's Church, Roslyn, Dunedin to celebrate the commissioning of Margaret McLanachan and Ainsley Lewis as the new New Zealand President and Secretary, respectively. Members of the new Circle team were also commissioned.

The service was conducted by Rev'd Eric Kyte (Vicar of St John's) and Bishop Kelvin Wright, who addressed the congregation as he began the commissioning. He talked about the **real** purpose of AAW groups, and described Margaret's growth, spiritually and personally, over the 15 years he has known her. Bishop Kelvin also talked about Margaret's husband,



Margaret and Ainsley being commissioned by Bishop Kelvin



Beginning the Banner parade

Craig, and how he, too had grown during that time, and that he would be totally supportive of Margaret in her new role as NZ President. He wished Margaret and her Executive a very purposeful three year term, knowing that she had the support of her parish and fellow AAW members from throughout the Diocese. The retiring President, Elizabeth Crawley, attending from Napier, then passed on to Margaret the President's Badge.

Following Communion and the Banner parade, fellowship was then enjoyed over a shared lunch. The Diocesan AAW Chaplain, Rev'd Angela Dutton, from Gore, was our speaker and a very interesting workshop involved us all thinking about Advent. Please keep Margaret and her team in your prayers as they get to grips with this new beginning.

Ainsley Lewis and Verna Rutherford

AFTERNOON TEA AT GLENFALLOCH



Our Dunedin Area Day, as groups wind down for the year, was an afternoon tea at Glenfalloch, involving some 18 members in a walk round the gardens and, of course, food! Even though we know each other reasonably well, it is amazing just how much conversational buzz there was round

the tables. In some ways, not having a strict programme, worked very well as we laughed and talked and got to know one another a little better. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Verna Rutherford

Raewyn Dawson



Belfast-Redwood AAW at breakfast

Special Greetings of the season, brothers and sisters throughout the land. May your times of peace and joy far outweigh your times of busyness and stress.

Included in this article are pictures of our typical activities – end of year breakfasts, music worship leading, amusing skits and the deeper joys of our shared

Cathedral Eucharist. Many of our Groups have had their AGM and sent off donations to various needs – our Canterbury awareness of crisis is much more acute nowadays!

As we expected, the **October Festival Communion** in the Transitional Cathedral was wonderful. A special round of applause goes to the South Canterbury contingent, who filled a bus from Timaru, and arrived in excellent time. We have many great photos of how packed the Cathedral was – half an hour early! We are deeply grateful to the Rev John Sheaf and Dean Lynda Patterson for their inspired and patient leadership of the Service.

For those in need of some light relief, we recommend visiting the **Hokitika AAW Group** – they are hard-working, caring and have a vigorous good humour that is enormously entertaining! If you feel more drawn to quiet prayer, you would



Dean Lynda Patterson leading the service



Donating cheques



Pat Owen, carrying the Diocesan Banner

have appreciated the **Diocesan Retreat Day** at the Community. A good number of leaders came, and Mother Keleni and the sisters again as so often, helped with lovely music and prayer support.

Finally, we must acknowledge the superb combined **Social Concerns and Overseas and Outreach Day**. After a morning attending to the Elder Care Project, the many participants were moved and shocked by the human trafficking documentary film 'Nefarious'. We are determined to be better informed, to better equip ourselves for effective prayer.

Our **Diocesan AGM** will be **February 15**, so that will begin 2014 with an early start – may we be found ready to serve.

Blessings to all our sisters far and near who share our aims.

At Marlborough's Regional meeting the members heard of the establishment, in Blenheim, of "Hope House" under the umbrella of the "Bread of Life Trust". 'This facility is for young pregnant teens who will have an opportunity to continue their education. The Hope House team will provide them with a number of essential life skills to run a home and enjoy their baby. If the baby is adopted there will be support offered throughout the process. If a teen keeps her baby, she will need support to limit severe hardship, limited finances and to develop skills. Each teen mum will be provided with support and encouragement, life skills, ante natal classes, GP visits and exercise programmes.' The AAW members had brought along toiletry items which they presented to the Bread of Life Trust members who were delighted.



St Christopher's ladies giving Hope House mangers some gifts

All Saints Nelson often have open meetings which are attended by some men and neighbouring AAW groups. At one such meeting a talk given by the Rev Barbara Harford on her recent trip on the Old Silk Road which took her through Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan and part of Western China. It was a trip of contrasts. Uzbekistan was a desert, flat and hot, Kyrgystan was mountainous, in Karakol the accommodation was in a yurt and in Xian they were caught up in a frightening mass demonstration.

For the last six years **Christ Church Cathedral Nelson** has invited organisations to decorate a tree for the Festival of Christmas Trees which is open to the public for most of December. This year the Cathedral AAW decorated a tree, and served morning and afternoon teas to the many visitors, groups from retirement villages, school groups and other organisations who come to see the trees.



Roz Loesby with the Cathedral AAW Christmas Tree

The **Nativity Evening AAW Group Blenheim** hosted the members of the recessed Afternoon Group and some St Christopher's ladies to an old fashioned afternoon tea so out came the embroidered tablecloths and best china. Two thought provoking readings, a skit and Christmas Carols interspersed with a lovely afternoon tea and Christmas Cake made for an enjoyable occasion.



Nativity members perform Cinderella.

Mawhera's Regional Day was held at Runanga where the guest speaker was Mrs Christina Bushby who, dressed in a traditional long skirt, gave an interesting account of her recent trip to Myanmar. Meeting up with her son in the southerner region she travelled with him noting how poor the people were and their very different way of life.

WELLINGTON DIOCESE

Rosemary Hurd

An Evening at Government House

On Tuesday night 26th November, Pat Vincent, Diocesan President was fortunate to represent AAW at an evening at Government House hosted by their Excellencies the Governor-General of New Zealand Lt The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae and Lady Janine Mateparae to celebrate New Zealand Women. Heather Dawson, our Mothers' Union President, Janice Viles, our Past Diocesan President and Eileen Imlach, Past National Concerns Convenor also represented members. It was a lovely occasion to join women from many organisations, to recognise women and the work they do. Among the women were Hon Hekia Parata, Hon Anne Tolley, Dame Susan Devoy, Judith Abelett-Kerr QC and Joy Cowley, to name but a few. It was so nice to meet up with fellow Anglicans and AAW members, Pamela Cook and Janet Hesketh. Quite a few members of NCWNZ were also in attendance, many like us representing religious groups. Pat was fortunate to be able to meet the President and Vice President of the Methodist and Presbyterian Women's groups and discuss our organisations.



LOVED 4 LIFE

Marcia Guest is the founder of this non profit organization whose vision is to positively impact families. Marcia was the speaker at an AAW Waikanae meeting where she gave a presentation of the work this organization does. There are 120 + volunteers who use their gifts lovingly to support families when a baby is born. By working closely through informa-



tion from midwives, LOVED 4 LIFE is able to provide for families who wish to accept this support. What happens?a special "LOVED" quilt is made and gifted to each new baby in the community...a meal is made and delivered to the family of a new born baby.....workshops are delivered for parents of all ages.....pure wool garments are knitted for premature babies. Families feel loved and supported knowing they belong to a caring community. Indeed they are LOVED 4 LIFE.

Diocesan Day At St Paul's Waiwhetu

Members from all over the diocese came together for a diocesan day where Alison Hayes spoke about her organization, **Initiatives for Change**. Current programmes in NZ aim at building trust and understanding between ethnic



groups. Creators of Peace meetings form part of this outreach with Peace Circle activities in Auckland and Wellington. NZ gives support to local Initiatives for Change teams in Fiji and Samoa and benefits from training courses for young adults such as LIFE MATTERS in Australia. The day began with morning tea followed by the Eucharist and a catered lunch. Guessing the weight of the cake proved to be quite a challenge, however three members proved to be very accurate. It was a lovely day where members experienced and were uplifted by worship, food, fellowship and information.

Advent Events

A lot of *Waiting and Watching* has been happening around the AAW group gatherings during Advent. The Kapiti Region met for their Advent Event on Saturday the 7th of December at St Matthew's, Titahi Bay. Those members who had walked some distance in the rain and wind were

particularly heartened to be greeted with a warm welcome and a delicious morning tea at 10.30am. We were reminded, during the reflection in the service that followed, of the thoughts and feeling that must have been in Mary's heart and mind as she waited for her baby's birth. In the time of waiting, of not knowing what is to come, of staying ready quiet and attentive, we praise you O God. Lunch time saw members fed well and fellowship flourish. With news and Christmas wishes from both Pat Vincent our AAW Diocesan President and Heather Dawson, MU Diocesan President, who were both in attendance, we finished the day with a Christmas

quiz. This gave rise to much fun, laughter and debate between teams. The members who had walked in the rain were able to make their way home in sunshine....well, it had stopped raining! A great day.



Flower Festival at St. Andrew's Church

About ten months ago an idea was born! The AAW ladies in Cambridge's Anglican Parish would hold a Flower Festival! After consultation with the vicar, Canon Andrew Hedge, it was decided that Creation Sunday, would be a very suitable time to hold it. So for three days, 15/16/17th November the church was filled with beautiful displays, carefully assembled by church members and local businesses from the community.



If ever there was an Outreach idea, this was it. The church community met the business community. It all began with members visiting local shops to find sponsors for our endeavours. Not an easy task as in many cases it took four or even five visits; but eventually we found thirty-two individuals (or groups) who would help out. Then we enlisted local school choirs and local community choirs who came along to entertain the visitors. Local schools also provided art work for an exhibition and two very talented ladies agreed to give demonstrations.

Not content with just having amazing arrangements to gaze upon we also introduced a slightly competitive edge by asking the public to vote for their most creative design. Ruth Riddell (many of you will recognize that name!) and her sister-in-law, Jo Fretwell won the prize donated by Wright's Booksellers in Cambridge. Not to be outdone the local Brownies also provided sand saucers for us which adorned the sanctuary steps and also won a book token.



Our ladies provided delicious all day food and one member made sunflower banners to adorn the walls. Nearly eight hundred people passed through the church to admire the results and a glorious total of \$3000 was raised. This had already been earmarked for St. John and was presented to them at their annual award ceremony.

So, where to from here? It has been decided to hold another festival next year but with a specific theme. To find out what the theme will be you will have to come along and see for yourself! I'll let you know the dates nearer the time!

St Stephen's Whangaparaoa.

For the last two years St Stephen's Whangaparaoa have been active in Prayer Shawl Ministry. This came into our programme when one of our members came back from Canada where she spends our winter with her daughter and family in a warmer climate. While there she witnessed the knitting of Prayer Shawls by members of the local church. Being a keen handcraft person she brought this into life here and it has developed far beyond the beginning initiative and in a different way from that practiced in other countries. At first we gave them as gifts to people in our church or family and friends in need of loving care and prayer; recovering from surgery, or some medical condition, a new mother to wrap around baby and herself during breast feeding, in a grief situation of any kind, with a special St Stephen's card in the plastic bag explaining the ministry and including a prayer.

Then we sent a good number on two or three occasions to Christchurch as a loving gift in the earthquake disaster. We keep giving them to our local hospice. We have one always at hand in the local Police Station for a stressful emergency they might have to deal with. The local Healing Rooms always have one or two available and tell us how wonderfully blessed are the people who are given them. Some have gone to Tanzania with our vicar and his wife on a Mission outreach to the diocese of Kondoa, some to Tonga.

But we have now moved into a much wider global area of need through a member who has a ministry with people on email through Facebook. A small number of our keen knitters are kept busy; a number of our parishioners contribute by donating wool. The basic pattern is easy, although some keen creative members combine colours and textures and vary the pattern to make some very special effects.

It is a simple ministry but one that has brought many letters and expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving in times of need.

Auckland Diocese Annual Luncheon

This year's luncheon for all groups in the diocese was held at Selwyn Heights Retirement Village, Hillsborough on Saturday 16 November with the theme of Mission Outreach, the guest speaker being the Rev. Mike Hawke, Chief Support Officer for the Anglican Mission Board.

We were welcomed into the beautiful Chapel there by the Diocesan Chaplain, the Rev. Hilary Leith who presided at the Eucharist service. The Diocesan President, Lady Jansen also welcomed us and thanked the guest organist, Bryce Mason from St Peter's Takapuna for playing for the service. Rev. Mike gave us an inspiring talk on the mission outreach being done in Tanzania. He concluded by leading us in a worship time with his guitar accompaniment. He also taught us to sing a Grace for the meal to follow in Swahili.

After a delicious lunch served to about 58 people we were entertained by The Men of Music from the Mt Roskill Probud Club. Christmas Carols were sung and Good King Wenceslas and his page sang and acted their part in costume giving



us a history lesson that the carol was written in 1853 when Wenceslas was King of Bohemia, now Czechoslovakia. This was followed by well known songs from show-time and we were encouraged to sing-a-long with them, after a guessing competition as to what show the song came from.



All were offered an escorted tour of the complex and many took the opportunity maybe thinking of time ahead.

Everyone came away saying it was a very enjoyable occasion.



Hawkes Bay Regional AAW Day held 19 October 2013.

The day was held at All Saints Church Taradale and hosted by the Cathedral Group Napier and was attended by members of the Cathedral, and St Augustines, Napier, AllSaints,Taradale, St Lukes,Havelock North, St Peters,Waipawa and St Marys,Waipukurau.

The day opened with Morning tea followed by a talk by the Rev.Steve Hayes



on his trips with school pupils from his school in England to Romania with much needed supplies.

The talk was followed by Eucharist in the Church and a shared lunch.

After lunch it was either a walk up Dolbel Reserve in Taradale or a Trip to Silky Oaks Chocolate

Factory to view the Quilting exhibition and the Floral art display.

The day ended with afternoon tea on the lawn at the Mission Estate, Taradale.

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Audrey Densham, a long-time AAW member, recently remembered this piece she had written back in 1999, aged 78. She is now 92 but is still a regular attendee at our St John's Cathedral Evening Fellowship in Napier.

MYSTERIES OR MIRACLES

I do not have the mind of a scientist, but I admire their patience and persistence. It seems to me, though, that often their wonderful "discoveries" are merely the dissection of phenomena that have been there in the first place, and merely misunderstood. Scientists cannot take them for granted, but must poke and pry to try to explain them at a test-tube level.

Some of the mysteries of nature that have intrigued me have baffled the scientists.

Breast-feeding is one. As soon as the

mammal is delivered, lactation is triggered, and whenever the baby – human or animal – is hungry, a supply of perfect sustenance is provided. Where does it come from?

Another mystery to me is the blessing of sleep. It is essential for our existence, yet we don't know how it happens. The Greeks had a god of sleep -Somnia- and I recall seeing a lovely sculpture once of a beautiful boy, like Cupid, lying asleep. But if you try to catch the moment at which your mind crosses from consciousness to oblivion, it will always mysteriously elude you.

Another puzzling fact is that large plant-eating animals produce quantities of meat and strong bones. How?

Bird and animal migration is another wonder. They cannot speak, and yet seem born with the knowledge that as the seasons turn, the day comes when they must fly south or whatever, following the ancient routes of their forebears to a better food location for the winter.

Plants in hot climates often produce hard seed pods to resist drought, but need actual fire to release the seed into ash, which then promotes growth and reproduction. This fire is provided by lightning strikes. Electricity was always one of Nature's secret wonders, cleverly used by man for his own power systems.

Another cause for awe is the perfect balance of the seasons, in harmony with the movement of the sun, moon, stars, and planets in the wider universe.

In the teeming variety of animals and insects in the wild, there is amazing order and balance. Predators get their dinner by dint of hard work, speed and well-developed senses of smell and hearing. They leave enough of the hunted species to reproduce their kind, as wild beats kill only what they need to survive. The scavengers clean up the leavings, and the cleansing insects ensure that only dry bones are left. Natural disasters – flood, fire, and drought – ensure a balance is kept on the numbers of creatures the environment can sustain.

Another thing that intrigues me is that of all the animals, only man is programmed to speak. Animal scientists who believe man evolved from apes because of physical similarities have spent years of concentrated effort, trying unsuccessfully to get great apes to speak. Apes are intelligent

(so is a horse) and can learn to recognise symbols, but only to the level of a very young child. The scientists, though, are stubbornly determined to prove their theories.

Have you ever looked at a diagram of the circulatory system of a human, and compared it to that of a tree? They are astoundingly similar, and prove to me the continuity and harmony of creation –not that we evolved from a tree.

Because of the similarities of anatomical structure between animals and humans, scientists conclude that humans evolved from amoeba, fish and apes. To me, the similarity only proves the connection of all created things to their Creator. Whether this great intelligence looks like Moses, ET or the Virgin Mary, does not concern me: only that there is an ordered plan in all these marvels.

That the earth and all it contains is gradually but constantly changing and evolving seems obvious, and perhaps, for all I know, the destruction and manipulation of the wonders of the world is programmed too.

However, I am an optimist, and have faith that before we reap the oblivion we deserve, enough people of good sense will take power, and restore the natural order here on earth. It is hard to visualise greed and hatred and arms being eliminated, but to survive we must achieve that.

I am sure my musings would be dismissed by scientists as uninformed speculation, as I cannot produce test-tube proof. At 78 I am still learning, and the more I learn, the more I realise how little I know. So I am content to leave the mysteries to my God.



Julie Thomas

BOOK REVIEW

Ruth Rendell, Waikato and Taranaki Diocesan President, writes that the author of “The Keeper of Secrets”, Julie Thomas, is a keen member of the Cambridge AAW group. This review is a compilation of the reviews from the Amazon website. The Circle team sends their best wishes to Julie for the book she is currently writing

The Keeper of Secrets

Julie Thomas’s novel, “The Keeper of Secrets”, is a well-written novel about how a priceless violin has been lost and found again, affecting three generations of families in Germany, Russian, and the United States. Daniel Horowitz is the great-grandson of the original owner of the 1742 Guarneri del Gesù violin. The violin had actually been in the Horowitz family for generations, as has the talent to play the instrument. But in the late 1930’s the Berlin Horowitz family was sent to Dachau and Auschwitz and the violin disappeared forever.



Flash forward 60 years, and to the United States, to young Daniel, who is the culmination of the Horowitz family’s violin-playing genius. At 14, he’s well on his way to a superb career; however, his interest in playing the violin is equalled by his passion to play baseball. But his parents and teachers don’t want him to chance damaging his hands by playing the game he loves and he swears he will stop playing the violin if he’s not allowed to play ball. Step up a Spanish conductor who has taken an interest in Daniel and his talent. He decides to track down the lost violin to inspire Daniel to continue playing.

Thomas has written a lovely story about a family - actually a couple of families - and how the violin has brought them all together. It’s a sweeping novel which encompasses Germany prior to WWII and afterward, Stalinist Russia, and current day United States and for anyone interested in history and classical music, this is a fine read.

Not only is this a beautiful story about families and their traditions, it’s also filled with information about the world of classical music and violins in particular. It explains, in the context of the story, how experts entitled “luthiers” can tell one violin from another, including the year a particular instrument was made. This information made the book even more entrancing. As a classical music lover myself, I also found that, as pieces of music were named in the book, the melodies would suddenly wander through my mind. This was especially true of Debussy’s “Girl With The Flaxen Hair” which is a favourite of Daniel’s and was also one of the first records my mother bought me when I was very young. All in all, this book is a wonderful experience to read.

The fly page states that Julie Thomas spent seven years writing this book. Her research is wonderful and complete. In fact, her information on such situations as the concentration camps is so detailed that I wondered if she either had a relative who survived them or someone else who had experienced them first hand and survived. This is a great book and a great read. Most such books don’t treat the instrument so personally and bring them into the heart of a family. I recommend it highly and hope many will read it.

A BRIDGE FOR LIFE

The sky has cast an omnipotent darkness,
 In a strong tenacious wind, accompanied by a heavy storm
 With the thundering chariot of gloomy clouds,
 Causing the gigantic waves to crash against the shore,
 Lambasting each post of the bridge that has been constructed.

Yonder I paused.
 My whole being was wrapped up in fear.
 Staring cowardly at the bridge and the rolling waves,
 I wondered.
 Why is nature significant? What makes the bridge still stand?

In the midst of my soliloquy, my heart continues to ask, "Who am I?"
 To discover a new meaning and purpose in life,
 To want to have a plan in the future, to eagerly crave to have a new life,
 Can I accept the challenge to "rage against the dying light?"

When love and faith are being tested,
 When stress of life brings your faith to the ocean floor,
 Can you be like that bridge, that stood firmly and has never been washed away,
 Even when tossed in the storm, in the midst of angry waves?

This is a real challenge that makes our life worthwhile.
 With courage and determination we must keep our faith strong,
 And it must be put into action.....

Where love is the keynote for everything,
 In the womb of our hearts faith is born and will be opened
 To a transcending beauty for everybody.
 It is love that unites people, for "no man is an island".
 It is our faith that connects us to God, it gives us the full meaning of life.
 It makes us "real witnesses in the world" for the crying need for God.
 Like a bridge that connects one place to another,
 Bringing vehicles and people securely from end to end,
 We will notice the despair changes to hope.
 Unceasingly we hope for the good things to come
 when the "light of glory" has full operation in the divine life of our souls.
 Then in an ecstatic moment,
 in the depths of our hearts we feel that God's joy is our joy,
 Faith is truly alive.

FAITH IS LIKE A BRIDGE

Faith is like a bridge that...
unites earth to heaven
connects us to God,
lights the way,
leads us to hope,
brings life meaning,
leads us to peace,
opens our horizons,
leads us over troubled waters,
holds us up above stormy trials,
leads us to new beginnings,
carries us to eternal light
is paved with sacramental grace,
supports our convictions
takes us beyond our sight,
passes from darkness to light,
crosses over from sadness to joy,
carries the heavy load of attachment to the freedom of poverty,
closes the gap between generation and nations, the rich and poor, and
those things pleasant and unpleasant.
It is our lifeline!

Written by the residents of St. Annes Rest home, California.

CHRISTIANS' JOURNEY

If we think of the Christians' journey as a five act play with creation as act one, the fall as act two, Gods promise of salvation as act three and Jesus as act four we will experience these four acts in our Christmas readings. Now act five is different for it hasn't been written, it is being acted out in the lives we each live outside the church building, and in the parts God has called us to play in His world.

Go now to be God's hands in his world.
Go now to be God's feet in his world.
Go now to be God's eyes in the world.
Go now to share God's love with his world.
Where God leads you, you must go.

N.T. Wright, Bishop of Durham.

AAW PRAYER

*O God our Father, whose love for all people
is proclaimed in Jesus Christ;*

*We thank you for uniting us in prayer and fellow-
ship.*

*Use us now in the mission of your Church;
Help us to realise that everything we do and say
reflects our love for you.*

*Bless homes and families throughout the world –
especially those unhappy or in need.*

*Show us how by our example and concern,
we can take your peace and love wherever
your Spirit may lead us – today and all our days.*

Amen.

