

Circle

Volume 49, No. 1

February 2017

Inspirational Women

Bishop Justin talks
about our 3D's

Simnel Cake
for Mothering
Sunday

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* Coordinator, 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.*

Cover Photos: Front Cover - Wellington Cathedral Sanctuary
Back Cover - The Lady Chapel, Wellington Cathedral

Copy deadline for the next issue:

30 March

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

From the Editorial team

Our Wellington team are excited at the challenge of designing and publishing our wonderful magazine, *Circle*. We have a great team who have accepted this new challenge, and we have short biographies and photos of the team in this magazine. Without dedicated women, such as these, we couldn't continue our work.

We have decided to keep the format and font size as set up by Dunedin, but plan to diversify the content and to encourage contributions from individuals, such as Letters to the Editor (200 words), and short items of interest. Stand-alone photos with captions are also welcome. We want to make this magazine a community publication where there is interaction between

the editorial team and reading audience. We want to generate new life in *Circle*.

We believe that *Circle* is more than mere lists of meetings. It should tell stories about who we are and what we do. Hence, we are having an 'Inspirational Women' section, in-depth articles that will give us cause to ponder, poetry, prayers...even recipes and cartoons. We are open to suggestions – and contributions – from you, our readers. All such copy should be sent in the first instance, directly to the *Circle* Coordinator, email: patvincent999@gmail.com.

We look forward to working with you during the next 3 years.
God Bless

Introducing the Circle team

Coordinator: Pat Vincent - patvincent999@gmail.com

Currently NZ Provincial President AAW. Previously President of Wellington Diocese and National Vice President. Prior to that Wellington Diocese Social Concerns Convenor for 9 years. Presently on the Nominations Panel of Wellington Synod. Represent our organisation at National Council of Women New Zealand (NCWNZ). Parishioner of St John's Johnsonville. Committee member of our AAW group and the Social Concerns Representative. My work role is Special Needs Coordinator at Newlands Intermediate.



Introducing the Circle team - continued

Secretary: Pam Hartley - pamela.o.hartley@gmail.com

A member of AAW since returning to Wellington from Auckland in 2001. Former Treasurer of my parish AAW Group of St John's Johnsonville, Secretary/Treasurer of Capital City Anglican Women and Diocesan Secretary. Currently, Secretary of our National Executive.



Business Manager: Janice Viles - janiceviles4@gmail.com

In 2001 joined St Peter's AAW Fellowship. I have been Diocesan President Wellington; am now Stationery and Literature Convenor and Collator of Group Returns. Formerly St Peter's Vestry member, People's Warden and committee member. Currently Youth Leader, Choir member.



Editorial Team:

Mary Houston - rmhouston@clear.net.nz

People's warden at Holy Trinity Church, Lower Hutt; retired secondary teacher of English; published author of English texts year 9 (ESA publications); past editor of Wellington Diocese Quarterly, LinkWELL



Diana Maunder - dmaunder@paradise.net.nz

My working life was spent as a Librarian in various Government Department in Wellington. I am a keen gardener and tennis player. I belong to both St Michael's, Waikanae and St Peter's, Willis St, Wellington.



Graphic Layout: Anne Stainer: annestainer@gmail.com

I have some experience in desktop publishing for a former employer. I am a founder member of Churton Park Anglican Church and enjoy gardening and doing word puzzles.



A prayer for 2017...

O God, We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendour of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be.

From "firesong" by Anne Powell

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President's Notes

Dear Members

A happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a blessed Christmas with your families as we celebrated the coming of our lord and also that 2017 has begun well. Recently I read the following piece which I thought was timely for the start of the year: “The great thing about walking with God in life is that there is always the opportunity to start anew - God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before.”

At this time people traditionally think of resolutions for the year ahead and while we may not itemise them I think it is a good idea to have some goals. For me, this is a big year as retirement beckons in April, so it is a chance to take stock and think of my goals for this extra time. One of these will be to further explore my role as Provincial President.

It has been very heartening to receive emails from groups, particularly from our friends in the Waikato / Taranaki Diocese who, though in recess, are still keen to continue their affiliation with AAW and *Circle*. I have just returned from 6 days holiday in Nelson with my husband Brian and I had the

opportunity to meet up with Diane Higgins, our Nelson President. This is Diane’s second term as President for which we are grateful. However as with many of our groups, although everyone is keen, we couldn’t find leaders, so Diane has decided to take on the role again for her region. We spoke about what made us join AAW as Young Wives and again it is the fellowship with similarly minded spiritual women that keeps us as members. We need to celebrate who we are and tell our stories within our faith communities. This is particularly important as our groups look to celebrate AAW Sunday.

As we move towards Ash Wednesday and the Lenten journey to the Crucifixion and Resurrection, this quote from Isaiah springs to mind for it sums up so well, that, 'with God in life we always have the opportunity to start anew no matter what has gone before.'

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

Blessings, Pat

Inspirational Women - Rev Sandra Williams

Gearing for Growth

In the 1950s and '60s a gauntlet lay before Mother's Union New Zealand.

Fellowships of young women were flourishing in Anglican Churches throughout the country. They were meeting for fellowship. They were laughing together. They were supporting one another through the trials and tribulations of raising young families in a society that had become dislocated through the effects of a major war.

By 1967 statistics show over 6,000 women attending Young Wives' Groups, but only 732 of these admitting to Mother's Union. The reason? The inflexibility of Mother's Union's demands for an accepted faith and marriage disciplines deemed many of them unsuitable. And many more stayed away in solidarity with their friends.

Through its concern for these marginalised women and following a denial by the world-wide council of Mother's Union to establish Provincial autonomy that would enable New Zealand Mother's



Rev Sandra Williams

Union to change their qualifications for membership, the umbrella Association of Anglican Women was established in 1969.

Who has sat under this umbrella? Mother's Union groups. Young Wives' Groups. Women's Fellowships. Ideally any, and all groups of women in the church.

Two aims encompass this umbrella:

To unite the women of our church in prayer and participation in the mission of the Church.

To promote and safeguard Christian Family Life.

As we go forward into 2017 I lay down to you all a new gauntlet: Look around our churches. Look at the AAW umbrella.

Who sits under this umbrella today? Who is missing? How is our umbrella uniting all women of our church in prayer?



How is it calling and equipping us to participate in the mission of the Church? How is our umbrella promoting and safeguarding Christian Family Life? Is our umbrella whole or full of holes? These are the questions I am challenging the AAW Executive with. These are the questions I invite us all to grapple with this new year.

May God bless and enthuse us in 2017, to be even more Christ-like than we are today.

Umbrella Dreams

Venturing out on a wet day in late winter of 1990, I put up my umbrella. Suddenly I smelled Manila, and was stirred by memories of sloshing through pouring rain and puddles on broken pavements as I followed my hosts to visit a women's centre in the heart of that huge city. It was my first overseas trip on my own, I was attending the pre-Assembly Women's Forum of the Christian Conference of Asia, and this event led to me serving in various roles in CCA over the next fifteen years. My life changed radically as I met



Rev Dr Jenny Dawson

wonderful people who taught me about the power and processes of people's movements and a non-Western perspective on feminist theology. That occasion, a few months earlier, was the last time I had used the umbrella. The Manila experience began a most unexpected journey that jolted me out of complacency.

Last Advent I remembered this

Inspirational Women - Rev Dr Jenny Dawson

incident as our Wellington Diocesan President Sandra Williams challenged us about the AAW “umbrella” that for nearly fifty years has sheltered a variety of women’s groups in the Anglican church (see previous article). She asked “Who sits under this umbrella today? Who is missing? How is our umbrella uniting all woman of our church in prayer? How is it calling and equipping us?” Then she said “Is our umbrella whole or full of holes?”

We all know that there are other Anglican women’s groups who are not currently beneath the umbrella. There are many other women who know nothing about the umbrella. My hunch is that many of them would support our aims (to unite the women of our church in prayer and participate in the mission of the church and to promote and safeguard Christian family life) but to them the umbrella seems to be about another time and place.

In some parts of New Zealand, an umbrella is not much use. I have a painting by Michael

Bennington, who lives in Plimmerton near where we are, in which he has depicted people battling the Wellington wind and rain on The Terrace. Most of their umbrellas are blown inside out. One has all its inner parts exposed. The canopy has been torn away from the ribs and some of the fabric is flapping towards the ferrule at the top.

Maybe unfurling our umbrella still releases aromas of past good times. Maybe it continues to protect us well from rain or strong sunlight. But is there more to AAW than reminiscing or being protected? I believe that this organisation is on a spiritual journey. As I reflect on our Provincial theme for 2017 “Grow in Dreams, Discipleship and Dedication”, I want to take Sandra’s last question further by asking “Is our AAW umbrella holy?” Holiness could mean that we as Anglican women together know deeply that we are sacred, blessed, called for a spiritual purpose. Are all our activities seen as holy ground? Do we see our life and work as sharing in God’s

Inspirational Women - continued

dream that all people might have life abundant? Are we discipling women of all ages?

I wonder, on the other hand, if the “holiness” of this umbrella is preventing us asking hard questions about the future and about how we are now. In the presence of the holy, we as people who are familiar with the practices of the Christian faith, know that we are called to examine ourselves honestly and ask hard questions. At times we are called to repent, to turn and walk a new way. Only when the umbrella canopy is torn apart, either by Wellington winds or by the sheer courage of brave women, can those sheltering beneath truly see the ferrule, the tip, which may be symbolic of our true leader, Jesus Christ.

As our growing Anglican churches indeed have young women who are passionate to make a difference but don't join traditional groups, and as some of our AAW groups attract newly-retired women who want to continue to make the significant contribution they did in their working years, and as building

relationships is at the centre of our church life, I wonder if we who have been around for a while are willing to let these women be prophetic for us, to ask questions and point out to us possibilities that take us way out of our comfort zones.

An umbrella in a dream is thought to indicate the need to take a closer look at our worries and fears. When there is an open umbrella in a dream, we must act carefully and watch how we behave with others. A closed umbrella means we are worrying and obsessing unnecessarily. When umbrellas of any kind appear, we must ask what we are afraid of because our fears are holding us back from progress.

In 2017 we will continue to dream together as Anglican women. Jesus Christ is certainly speaking to AAW but I am convinced it will be in unexpected ways that surprise, and even amaze, us. May God bless us as amazing, amazed and amaze-able Anglican women as this year begins!

Celebrating 50 years' of Mother's Union membership

On Tuesday 12 July , at St James' Church Lower Hutt, the St James' AAW led by Lillian Ross, hosted a delightful afternoon to celebrate Leila Pilkington's 50 years of Mothers' Union membership.

At the Celebration Service conducted by the Rev Dorothy Howard, tribute was paid to the Leila for the work she had done at parish and diocesan levels with a

faith that had never wavered. At the end of the service Ann Carpenter presented Leila with her 50 year badge.

A delicious high tea followed in the church hall, where Leila enjoyed being feted as guest of honour.

All in all this event was a wonderful acknowledgement of the Mothers' Union work of a much loved lady. Congratulations Leila!



Seen here after the presentation, Leila Pilkington (right) with Ann Carpenter.

Apology

In the December issue there was an article describing the celebration of 50 years of Mothers' Union Membership of Leila Pilkington of St James' Parish Lower Hutt. Unfortunately the wrong photograph was attached and for this we apologise. The photo should have been as shown above.

Bishop's Notes

We have all these people all around us, proving to us that we should believe God. So then, like people running a race, we must take off everything that is heavy. We must put off all wrong, wrong things that get in our way. We must not stop running until we reach the mark that has been put in front of us. Hebrews 12:1.

It is my pleasure to be asked to write for *Circle* magazine at the start of 2017. It is a great opportunity to take the time to encourage you all as you begin your penultimate year of growing in Discipleship, Dreams and Dedication.

The above quote from Hebrews encourages us to persevere with the goals we have discerned as being important for us as individuals and as organisations such as the Anglican Association of Women; all aiming towards the wider goal of proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In the Diocese of Wellington, our theme that we will focus on as a family this year is also discipleship. I like that you have

placed 'Discipleship' first in the list of goals for AAW; for I believe it forms the base for all of our other activities – underpinned by discernment (or dreams) and the perseverance that the writer of Hebrews espouses.

In 2016 I had the privilege of taking part in a number of discipleship programmes on offer in our Diocese which no doubt some of you will be familiar with: Cursillo, Education for Ministry, and 3DM. It is the Kairos circle of 3DM which I would like to share with you now as a tool which has a lot of synergy with the AAW goals. My good friend Amilie Paynter has drawn a version of this which I hope you will like. (see next page)

The Kairos circle works like this: you can use it in individual reflection or more effectively to disciple alongside others. Its basis is Jesus' command in Mark 1:15 to 'repent and believe'.

Along the journey of life we notice moments, big and small, which make us stop and think. These can be called 'Kairos' moments – which God speaks to us



and we have an opportunity deepen our faith. We can let these moments pass us by, or we can use them as chances to grow. This is part of the ‘repentance’ side of the Kairos circle: a chance to observe; reflect; and discuss what you think God might be saying to you.

We then move to the ‘believe’ side of the circle. Here we spend time moving forward: planning to action what we think God is saying; making concrete plans with others to stay accountable and keep to our word, and then to act.

As a personal example, a few months ago in a rare and spontaneous gesture I bought some flowers for Jenny (confession time

that this doesn’t happen very often!). Later I was reflecting why I felt called to do so – what God was saying in this moment. On reflection, for a long time in this season as Bishop, Jenny has actively denied herself to support the Diocesan ministry we are called to and I realised that it’s good to spend time focussing on giving back to her for all that she has done. Definitely some calls to action to be a better husband!

So as you can see, the Kairos discipleship circle requires both dreams (the ‘repent’ side of the circle) and dedication (the ‘believe’ side). I hope this is useful to you as you begin the year ahead in community with each other.

May God bless you all and the work you do together this coming year.

+Justin



Social Concerns - A Reflection

The Emerging Kingdom

I'm writing this in Advent, the Church's new year, and thinking towards 2017 and a new year in the usual sense. I've already heard several people say they are ready to see the back of 2016 with all its upheaval. Radio New Zealand, though, was able to find someone who had thought of 99 reasons to think it was a very good year to balance the doom-saying (1), so let us live in the positive!

Obviously we turn our thoughts to the coming of Jesus at this time of year, both back in the day and in the future. John, preparing the way with a call to repentance, told the people, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors were told not to collect more than they were required to and soldiers not to extort money from people.

I wish these messages sounded old. Sadly though, the news this week has contained a report on child poverty that points out the inequality of our society once again with many thousands of children

living in families in which a shortage of money cramps life, health and happiness. This is true nearly as often of families supported by a working parent as of those living on a benefit. We also heard that a motel and a camping ground have received thousands of dollars a week to house families in need (and that inadequately). I'm surprised there has not, thus far, been more outcry about this blatant opportunism. If the providers were paid at a reasonable rate, there would be more tax dollars to help other families. The cost of housing is surely our most common stressor in New Zealand at present.

Jesus announced His own ministry with a quotation from Isaiah that was fulfilled in Him: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." The good news of the kingdom of God was and is the very heart of Jesus' message.

And where is this kingdom to be

found? “The kingdom of God is within you”, He said, which may also be translated as “The kingdom of God is among you.” (Luke 17:21) It is as we acknowledge the King and do as He has asked us (“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31), for example), that the kingdom appears. We’ll see it, not in the landlords (2) making the last dollar they can, but in the teacher aide providing lunch for this child or that every day because she knows they will go without otherwise. The particular teacher aide I’m thinking about, who has done this over many years, told me she’d had a letter from one brother and sister in later years thanking her. Think of the nourishment of their souls her care had provided, quite apart from the food for their bodies. And what disasters that may have prevented.

It’s exciting to follow a King, who puts giving and forgiving, justice and mercy at the centre of the kingdom. But, to be honest, I also find it challenging. It’s challenging to notice what needs to be done and to be open to doing it; to give out of my own plenty to improve someone else’s lot; to give

up power and increase someone else’s. There is so much need, it’s easy to protect myself by not looking too hard, or to think that my little drop of help will not be noticed. But that was not Jesus’s way and it must not be mine.

So once again we pick up, for another year, the tasks that the Gospel beckons us toward: to connect with those we meet and with our communities, so that no-one is neglected or rejected; to tackle the structures that are unjust and that make unreasonable demands on us or our fellow community-members; to give to those in need; to make the kingdom appear.

I am challenging myself to notice, to pray and to act in 2017: to walk the walk. How about you?

Pip Harrison

(1) <https://medium.com/@angushervey/99-reasons-why-2016-has-been-a-great-year-for-humanity-8420debc2823#.mb3b2wmqj>

(2) I gather I was misinformed about the upcoming change to the building law I mentioned last Circle; landlords will have to attend to insulation over the next four years and must provide smoke alarms in the new changes but appropriate heating is not mentioned.

Overseas and Outreach

Greetings to all members – I hope you had a relaxing and refreshing break over Christmas and New Year. As we begin a new year in AAW, I thought it would be helpful to provide a quick catch-up of our Partners and programmes, as there have been a few changes.

In November, in response to the Kaikoura earthquake, the Executive allocated \$3,000 in total for the earthquake relief in the South Island, from the Emergency Fund. Communities closest to the epicentre of the earthquake received this money which will go through the respective Dioceses and churches. \$2,000 went through Nelson Diocese and then through the churches of Awatere and Kaikoura, for specific needs in those communities. \$1,000 went through Christchurch Diocese, through the church at Waiiau, for the specific need of women and children in that area.

Our Water Tanks for Tonga Project will finish in May 2017. At time of writing we have enough donations to cover the cost of two water tanks (which cost approx.

\$5,000 each installed). By the time you read this, we may well have more than that. A big thank you to those of you who have worked hard to raise money for this project. Any further donations will be much appreciated, and should be sent to your local Diocesan Treasurer, who will then forward the money to our National Treasurer, Joan Honeyfield.

We will be sadly, saying goodbye to Phil and Becky Sussex, who return to New Zealand in January 2017, with their four children. Anthony and Anne McCormick will enjoy having their first family visitor after five years in Cambodia: Anthony's sister Angela, who is visiting for Christmas 2016.

In the Diocese of Melanesia, Margaret Poynton has returned to Papua New Guinea after a short break here in New Zealand and also visiting Melbourne. She continues to do the administrative work as Assistant to Archbishop Clyde Igara and enjoys the contact with her local parish community of St Francis.

We have had a letter from Sister Beverly Tumbari from the Community of the Visitation, Papua New Guinea. She sends greetings to all AAW groups. The Sisters are building a new chapel and ask for our prayers for its completion. She also tells us that she is a Senior Guardian as part of a 3 year team. She ends her letter "Do pray for me, as I do for you all".

We have also had a letter from Sister Kathleen Kapei, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Honiara, Solomon Islands. She writes to tell us they have two new sisters, Sister Veronica Vasethe, and Emily, who is an Assistant. Sister Kathleen says she looks forward to hearing more from us and our work for Christ in the future.

Finally, we have exciting news from Nick and Tessa Laing, Northern Uganda. They have been through many trials, but it seems they have now come out on top. Nick writes: "As part of our Bishop's seven years on the job celebration, we officially opened the monstrous 25 room St Phillip

mini-hospital.....important people were everywhere. The Minister of Primary Healthcare was supposed to open it, but in her absence the Minister of Foreign Affairs did the honours instead. He even made a comment about the Christchurch earthquake! "

**The opening of the hospital
(Apologies for the small photo file size- Editor)**



Tessa also writes about how they are going about getting the law banning sachet alcohol enforced: "I'm not really into organising big events... To pull this event off, we co-ordinated multiple government organisations to join the effort... think tents, chairs, brass bands, radio announcements, police escorts, banners, water bottle distribution, sound system, organising the VIP speakers, getting tons of people to the same place at the same time... So what's the point? After all, the law is already passed, right? Isn't it a waste of time and money?"

The reality is that in Uganda,

Overseas and Outreach - continued

laws often don't mean all that much. Even if a law is officially passed by council, approved by the Attorney General, published in the national gazette, it can still result in absolutely no practical change. A whole lot of people have to know about the law, understand the law, and feel like it is their law. They have to believe their leaders think it is important, and believe authorities are serious enough to make arrests, press charges, burn big piles of confiscated sachets. They have to feel like it's worth it to kick up a massive fuss if they don't see police enforcing the new law. So

that's why we did the launch. And... it worked! There is a big buzz about the new alcohol law and the sachet ban on the streets in Gulu and almost certainly on the radio. We are all holding our breath to see what will happen on the 6th December – Enforcement Day.”

Well – I hope to keep you updated in our next newsletter or article! Thank you for your prayers and support for Overseas and Outreach.

Shelley Vette

*Overseas and Outreach
Convenor*



Hospital staff and Tessa on right

Mothers' Union

Last September our Provincial President and 3 members from Auckland attended services held in Winchester Cathedral to celebrate 140 years of Mothers' Union. Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of MU, was represented at the services by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mr Nigel Atkinson. The Queen sent a message of warmest congratulations on the 140th anniversary mentioning the important work of supporting family life, and communities, through its programmes. The message concluded "I send my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to Mothers' Union over the years and I send my best wishes for the continuing success of a charity that has given hope and strength to so many".

The Archbishop of Canterbury likened the Mothers' Union to a great army. We were urged not to focus on what remained to be done or on challenges that seemed insuperable but to look at what has been done and to see God's hand in it.

Looking ahead to this year we

will be sending out nomination forms in March for the next Provincial President. The Rev Iritana Hankins will complete 6 years in office on Mary Sumner Day, 9 August. Voting is open to all enrolled and financial members and diocesan presidents will be responsible to see all records are up to date.

Waikato and Taranaki Diocese was the first in the world to take part in the Shine a Light marking the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence. Mothers' Union members around the world were asked to light a candle at midday local time on Friday 25 November. At St Mary's Cathedral three men joined MU members for a service of readings, prayers and candle lighting which the Dean felt was very meaningful. At St Peter's Cathedral Hamilton a candle was lit during the midday Eucharist. Also St Chad's, West New Plymouth AAW held a short service.

Rosemary Bent on behalf of Rev Iritana Hankins

Diocesan News - Polynesia

On the 4th of November 2016, the women of Suva and Ovalau (AAW members) visited Levuka, the old capital, with their gifts of clothes, toiletries, cutlery, pots and items for the kindergarten. We visited our church, Holy Redeemer and the nearby settlement, Wailailai, which was badly damaged by cyclone Winston in February.

In the afternoon, we visited the other parish, St Stephen in Wainaloka village which is about 30 minutes by truck from Levuka town. It too was affected during the cyclone.

On the 6th of November we had our AAW final rally for the year



Women in Wailailai receiving their gifts



Wainaloka kindergarten children also received items for their school



St Matthew's AAW performing an action chorus

where the women performed skits and action choruses. We had a wonderful time and we united in prayer for all who are still suffering from the effects of Cyclone Winston.

Annie Fong

Diocesan News - Wellington

Each of the Archdeaconries celebrated the start of the new Church Year with their Advent services, which were all well attended. These services were varied in content and format, drawing on the themes related to the Advent candles of hope, love, joy and peace.

The big news from Wellington is the jolt in the early hours of Monday morning 14 November. The earthquake particularly affected the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul: the building escaped harm but the organ pipes were badly damaged with some being thrown down into the chancel. That part of the cathedral has been roped off, and a temporary altar set up on the carpeted crossing in front of the chancel steps.

For a few weeks, the Cathedral could not be used because its neighbouring building in Molesworth Street had to be demolished, and for safety, no-go zones were drawn in the area that included the Cathedral. That site is now safe, and the Cathedral was

able to celebrate Christmas in its own building, albeit without the organ.

To the Wellington AAW the Cathedral provides a powerful focal point, and because of this, the cover pages of our first issue depict the Sanctuary hanging created by Beverley Shore-Bennett; and the beautiful Lady Chapel. Note that the Lady Chapel was originally the former St Paul's church in Paraparaumu. When a new church was mooted, the old wooden structure was preserved by moving it to Wellington and attaching it to the Cathedral on the north side of the Sanctuary, as its Lady Chapel.

AAW Wellington has lots planned for 2017, including a diocesan picnic in Wanganui on Saturday 25 February to celebrate AAW Sunday; Diocesan training days in May and October; and an AAW women's retreat sometime in July-August.

Mary Houston

Diocesan News - Christchurch

Christchurch Diocese

The Association of Anglican Women Diocesan Committee met for the last time this year at the end of November, 2016. Our meeting was followed by a shared lunch at the President's home, outside in the garden. It was so hot and sunny everyone had to find some shade. Recently, our Diocesan Secretary,

Jenny Glasson received a report of the year's activities from the St Augustine's AAW group in Waimate. I would like to share some of this delightful report.

"It is with pleasure I bring you the Annual Report. With only eight members to begin the year we were pleased to welcome a new member.

On Sunday 7th February we



Lovely roses in the Christchurch President's garden where the end of year lunch was held.

celebrated AAW Sunday and the commissioning of officers by the Vicar. The meeting began with communion, and then lunch followed. Afterwards we discussed the year's programme which included combining with the Methodist Women's Fellowship for at least two meetings.

March began with a visit to St Mary's Oamaru to join in with women from neighbouring churches for worship and to listen to their speaker who had recently been to China.

In April one of the members took the group on a tour of St Augustine's Church – amazing what we learnt.

May meeting was the Methodist Women's Fellowship Hospitality day at which a member spoke about her younger days in the Philippines.

On 19th September we organised the celebration of Suffrage Day at which the four women candidates for the local body elections addressed over twenty Waimate Women. Later that

week the group visited a lovely garden and then afterwards to kitchen at the Waimate Camping ground for afternoon tea.

The funds from serving afternoon tea at two funerals this year and our stall, have enabled us to support the project Tanks for Tonga and contribute to St Augustine's sponsored child. Our meetings with the Methodists ladies have been successful and will continue. One of our members became a centenarian in March, and sadly another member has died. We continue to fulfil a need for women, and we pray for more members to share with us in our aims of uniting in prayer, participating in the mission of the church, and promoting Christian family life in 2017”.

Best Wishes for 2017.

*Jude Mackenzie,
AAW Diocese of Christchurch
President.*

Holy Trinity AAW

On 27 November, the Holy Trinity AAW hosted, at the Teapot Valley Christian Camp, a dinner and entertainment for guests from the Holy Trinity Church and the Waimea AAW Fellowship. In between servings, we discussed the changes in structure of our AAW from 1977 to 2016. The main differences being members are contributing more in active service, including: as Vestry members, leading services, contributing financially



Guests and members of AAW . Front right is the New AAW Diocesan President, Diane Higgins

through fund raising, and overseas outreach.

Advent at Christ Church Cathedral

Each year at

Advent, the Christ Church Cathedral of Nelson, opens its doors to community groups who erect Christmas trees to celebrate the birth of Christ. In total there were 38 decorated trees, including the trees of Memory.

Nelson-Waimea Regional AGM

The All Saints Nelson AAW, Women Together, were the hosts for the Nelson-Waimea Regional AGM. After the business session was completed, Roz Loasby introduced the speaker Alison Mountfort.



Alison is the Convenor of the programme “Loaves and Fishes”, which is an Outreach programme providing lunches, 3 days a week from February to December, to the lonely and hungry. Each catering team consists of five volunteers, with the food being donated by local suppliers. The first meal is free, and thereafter \$2.00 is charged per meal or a \$5.00 ticket for three meals can be purchased. Initially only men used the service but later women began to attend, which introduced a warmer and lighter atmosphere.

The diners are mainly people who are living out in the

community but are finding it difficult to cope. The AAW members stayed and shared a simple but tasty two course meal.

Cobden – Runanga AAW

At our October meeting, we had Fr Tien Cao Assistant Priest at S. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church in Greymouth speak to us on his life in Vietnam. His father drowned when he was 11 trying to save their cow leaving his mother to bring up six boys. He told us how he knows what it is like to be hungry and different things he ate, mice, rats etc.

A powerpoint presentation on the Church he attended showed how the men sit on one side and the women on the other. There is no talking in church and people dress well – no mini-skirts! The large church, the size of a cathedral is packed every Sunday at the 2 masses – 1 for the youth and the other for adults.



Roz Loasby and Alison Mountfort

Diocesan News - Waikato/Taranaki

At the October meeting St Mary's New Plymouth Fellowship brought women's hygiene products for the local Food Bank. \$100 was also taken from funds for extra items to be bought and the treasurer asked a passing thirty-something shopper at the supermarket for help in making the most suitable purchases.

During the meeting lots of

anecdotes were shared, including the reaction of one husband who spotted the tampons in the shopping trolley and said 'What do you want those for?'

Further purchases will be made to re-stock when needed.

Rosemary Bent



Some of St. Mary's Fellowship group with the box of sanitary products that they put together and donated to the New Plymouth foodbank.

Diocesan News - Waiapu

By the time you read this Christmas will be finished and another year well on its way.

Waiapu groups have had some wonderful events during 2016 and it is always inspiring to find out what the groups come up with year after year.

In November St. Luke's AAW Rotorua had the pleasure of being hosted at the beautiful garden and home of one of our members, Fenella Playne who lives on the shores of Lake Okareka with the most beautiful views over the lake and surrounding marshlands and natural bush. She invited all our members to a lunch which she had prepared herself using some of her treasured family silverware and china. Not a great day with some heavy clouds around but she had the fire alight and we felt so welcome. The lunch was served on huge silver platters and included cold chicken, asparagus, beans, mango, new potatoes and marinade followed by a most delicious dessert – "possit". We all drooled over this! Do look it up on "Google" as it is quite the most

sumptuous dessert and would be wonderful for a Christmas treat. She served it in crystal glasses with little spoons. Afterwards we had coffee and cream puffs. A day to remember!

At our last meeting for the year we were fortunate to have the children and staff from St. Francis Whanau Aroha Centre who came to join us. The children were just delightful and really enjoyed the service which was designed to include many of their well-known hymns and carols.

Early in October St Andrew's Taupo AAW members and friends enjoyed High Tea at a members home when the best cups and saucers and tiered cake stands were given an airing; and were entertained with a selection of songs from Glenda Drake. The money raised was a contribution to the Tongan Water Tank Project.

The final meeting for the year was a Garden Service at a member's lovely and productive garden followed by a boxed lunch packed by the committee.

It has been a good year and

although several members have left it was because of increasing frailty of their health and mobility.

It seems that going back in time to the beautiful silverware and china is the thing to do.

AAW St. Luke's Havelock North Morning Fellowship enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Chalk and Cheese. It sounds like a good time was had by all.

Waiapu Cathedral AAW

In December members enjoyed a tour of some of the sea wall murals painted in Napier earlier this year by NZ and international artists. The murals all carry a strong message about taking care of our seas and the creatures who depend on it for life. We invited partners to join us and ended the evening with coffee and dessert.

In November members brought along beautiful quilts which all had a story to tell. Quilt #1 was made by a terminally ill sister of one of our members. It was one of many she made for all her extended family before she died. Each quilt

has been designed using family photos which have been transferred to the fabric.

Quilt #2 was made by our leader, Kay Memmott, who got the Clarice Cliff inspired fabric in Australia.

All the quilts were of interest and it was a fascinating and at times



Diocesan News continued - Waiapu

poignant evening.

And so we look ahead to another inspiring year with our wonderful

AAW members.

Elaine Wood

Diocesan President, Waiapu



Diocesan News - Auckland

Auckland Diocese's annual Christmas lunch rounded off what had been a year focused on Social Concerns issues. Earlier in the year a Social Concerns evening was held at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Whangaparaoa at which Faye O'Connor from the Orewa Police Family Violence Unit talked about family violence and how it was a whole of community problem that everyone needed to take responsibility for.

This was followed by an inspiring talk held at the beautiful historic Mangere Bridge Anglican Church by Education Consultant, Laurayne Tafa from Cognition Education. Laurayne had come highly recommended as a speaker by the President of AAW Whangaparaoa, Lindy Austin, who spoke of her as an inspiring educationalist committed to making a difference to peoples' lives through education. Laurayne proved to be a thought provoking speaker as she talked about the power of relationships to change educational outcomes for people particularly amongst indigenous Australian Aboriginal populations

whom she currently works with.

To have Bev Clarke, head of the Eastern Refuge Society address our final gathering was thus a fitting end to the Social Concerns focus of the year. Against the peaceful setting of the Selwyn Chapel at Pt Chevalier she revealed the facts behind New Zealand's horrific domestic violence situation. The statistics that she presented revealed the well known fact that it is women who are at the brunt of almost all domestic violence situations - one in three New Zealand women will experience physical and emotional violence during their life with police being called every seven minutes to a domestic violence situation. Eighty four percent of the arrests made will be of the male in the relationship. Even more startling is the fact that most domestic violence situations go unreported with women and children continuing to exist in relationships of fear and oppression.

Bev, however, did not leave us with a message of despair but one of hope which fits with the message of the 'hope' of advent at the time

at which I am writing this article. She talked about the Eastern Refuge's Programme 'Stepping Stones'; a programme for women who are in or have been in physically or emotionally abusive relationships. The programme supports women's rights and importantly helps women to leave violent relationships by developing a safety plan for leaving as statistics reveal that this is the time of greatest risk to women often involving nine attempts before a woman successfully leaves. A swinging door policy is provided by the programme whereby women have continual and repeated access to Refuge's services. The Eastern Refuge Society actively engages with the National Women's Refuge Organisation seeking government funding. It also seeks to enhance skills and strengths to achieve a violence-free lifestyle.

Most significantly Bev presented us with the idea that God gives us hope for others. What can we do as Christians? We can pray for women and children in domestic violence situations, pray for healing and restoration, show

kindness, be non judgmental, advocate for women and children and when needed ring the police rather than do nothing! Your call will be anonymous but it could be the call that saves the life of a woman and her child or children! Bev's message of hope was beautifully expressed in a song of hope titled '*People need the Lord*' that she sang to a stilled congregation.

The first and last verses were:-

*Every day they pass me by,
I can see it in their eyes.
Empty people filled with care.
Headed who knows where?*

*People need the Lord, people
need the lord*

*At the end of broken dreams,
He's the open door.*

*People need the lord, people
need the Lord.*

*When will we realize that we
must give our lives,*

*For people need the Lord.
People need the Lord.*

Bev's speech was a challenge to all AAW members and something

which can empower us to make a difference to the lives of women around us known and unknown in need of our help in the year to come.

The festive Christmas luncheon which followed in the dining room of Selwyn village provided the opportunity for AAW members to reflect on Bev's talk, socialize and share memories of the past year.

Two past Auckland presidents (pictured below right) were acknowledged at the luncheon including Marie Taylor whose

badge was presented at the AAW conference in Dunedin last year and Paulene Murdoch who was obviously surprised by the presentation that day and gave a short speech.

Bev's talk and the tranquil setting of the Chapel and Selwyn village itself helped bring an end to the Auckland Diocese AAW year in which we have strived to be continually mindful of and committed to the aims of AAW.

I hope that everyone is being refreshed and invigorated for the new AAW year ahead!

Blessings,

AAW Auckland Diocese Social Concerns Convener, Julie Walker

Aotearoa litany

Green of fern, *refresh us*

Feathers of kereru, *warm us*

Rocks of Moeraki, *encircle us*

Waters of Taupo, *bathe us*

Dive of the gannet, *focus us*

Arc of rainbow, *protect us*

Stars of Southern Cross,
guide us



Paulene Murdoch and Marie Taylor

The diocese received reports from 13 groups reflecting the energy of AAW in our region.

Guest speakers included Supergrans, a St John's ambulance officer, the Red Cross, travelogues, a fitness person, and priests sharing their path to ordination and the activities pursued while on study leave. Activities included a film evening ('Shadowlands'), a sales table for the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, a lunch meeting held in a café, a book review, the filling of boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and an hilarious fund raising auction of mystery parcels.

It is pleasing that there is a new young women's group at All Saints Dunedin, that regularly meets for craft and Bible study. And St John's Roslyn Evening Group have had shared leadership this year. All Saints Gore welcomed groups from neighbouring churches to their Patronal Festival in November, and The Rev Judy Johnston spoke on her trip to the Middle East.

Dot Muir has set up the Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation in Uganda, which aids

families with special needs children to enable them to travel to hospitals for treatment to correct such things as cleft palate, skin and eye diseases, and bone deformities. She and Lois Shallard travelled there recently and each spoke on their experiences, to Holy Trinity Invercargill and Holy Trinity Gore, respectively. St Mary's Oamaru attended the Ecumenical Spring afternoon in October.

The North Otago Area Day in November was well attended with Anne Gover, our Diocesan President, speaking to us about *Frogs and Lily Pads* – F.R.O.G standing for Fully Rely on God.

The Southland Advent Luncheon held in November; 32 women gathered at Te Anau for a service in the morning followed by lunch at the 'Fat Duck' Restaurant. President Anne then challenged us as to what was in our purses and how these items can help us in our daily walk as Christians.

If anyone wants the Frogs and Lily Pads or What's in Your Purse? power points, Anne is happy to share these. She can be contacted at annegover@xtra.co.nz

Simnel Cake

Simnel cake is a light fruit cake with two layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and one on top, that is toasted, and eaten during the Easter period in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some other countries. It was originally made for the middle Sunday of Lent, when the forty-day fast would be relaxed, Laetare Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and Simnel Sunday – after the cake. The meaning of the word "simnel" is unclear: there is a 1226 reference to "bread made into a simnel", which

is understood to mean the finest white bread, from the Latin *simila* – "fine flour", though John de Garlande felt that the word was equivalent to placenta cake, a cake that was intended to please.

Conventionally eleven, or occasionally twelve, marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, with a story that the balls represent the twelve apostles, minus Judas, or Jesus and the twelve apostles, minus Judas. This tradition developed late in the Victorian era, altering the mid Victorian tradition of decorating the cakes with preserved fruits and flowers.



Simnel Cake - The recipe on the next page is from Mary Berry's Easter Feast

Mary Berry's Simnel Cake Recipe

From Mary Berry's Easter Feast

CAKE INGREDIENTS

175g/6oz dark brown sugar (or light muscovado sugar if available)
175g/6oz butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
175g/6oz self-raising flour
3 large free-range eggs
50g/1¾oz ground almonds
3 tbsp milk

100g/3½oz sultanas
100g/3½oz glacé cherries, quartered
100g/3½oz dried apricots, cut into small pieces
2 tsp mixed spice powder

TOPPING INGREDIENTS

450g/1lb golden marzipan
3 tbsp apricot jam
1 free-range egg, beaten

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 160C/140C Fan/Gas 3. Grease a 20cm/8in round, deep-sided, loose-bottomed tin with butter and line the base with baking paper.
2. Put the cake ingredients into a large bowl and beat together until well incorporated. Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface.
3. Roll one-third of the marzipan to the same size as the base of the tin and place on top of the cake mixture.
4. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top of the marzipan and level the surface. Bake for 1¾-2 hours or until golden-brown on top and firm in the middle. If the cake is beginning to brown but not cooked through cover it with tin foil. Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin.
5. Heat the apricot jam in a pan, then brush the top of the cooled cake with a little warm jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan to fit the top of the cake. Place the marzipan on the cake and use your thumb to crimp around the edges.
6. Make 11 balls from the remaining marzipan and place these around the edge of the cake fixing them to the marzipan with a little beaten egg.
7. Brush the marzipan with the egg and glaze under a hot grill for about 5 minutes (turning the cake round to ensure even browning). You can do this using a cook's blowtorch if you prefer.

