

Circle

Volume 49, No. 2

May 2017

The meaning of
"Christian Unity"

Are You a Slave
to
Consumerism?

The Beauty of
Butterflies

The Association of Anglican Women



Theme for 2015-2018:

Grow in Discipleship, Dreams, Dedication

The Aims of AAW:

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

-to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life

Contributions for *Circle*

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

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

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

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



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**Cover Photos: Front Cover - Monarch butterfly on buddleia
Back Cover - Little blue butterfly on rosemary**

Copy deadline for the next issue:

20 June

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

From the Editorial Team

This issue is full of beautiful butterflies, chosen because they are redolent of Easter; symbolic of new life, fresh starts and new beginnings in a way that everyone, including young children, can understand.

We have had much positive feedback about our first ‘Wellington Issue’ of *Circle*, and for this we thank you – we now know that we are on the right track. In this issue, we have an article on Christian Unity written by an

overseas contributor that gives us food for thought. Our inspirational women are The Rev Canon Dr Ellie Sanderson, Assistant Bishop-Elect for the Wellington Diocese; and Rosemary Bent. The table of contents indicates a wide variety of material – and stories – that we do hope you enjoy.

We do like your contributions to *Circle*. Remember, this magazine is a voice for all of us AAW members, so let your voice be heard too.

God Bless.

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A Prayer for All Seasons

As we entered Lent together as the Wellington Diocesan family, Bishop Justin offered to us a prayer to share at all our gatherings. He wrote: “Having a shared prayer enhances our sense of belonging and one-ness.”

But this is a prayer for all seasons, and is particularly relevant to our AAW and Mothers’ Union members.

Here it is for you to share.

Sovereign Lord...we worship you as Lord, supreme in our lives and in this world.

Thank you for the gift of life and love, and your transforming presence with us.

We pray that by your Spirit you would renew your church in love, that we might grow stronger in witness and demonstration of that love to one another as family and to our communities.

We are sorry and repent of our parochialism and exclusiveness. Break us open and set us free to love as you love.

Give us grace to lay down old hurts and build the trust we need to work together for the healing and flourishing of our communities.

Knit us together as one family; unify our vision; make us one, that you may be glorified in all our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Amen.

Dear Editorial Team,

A group of us was discussing Easter while making palm crosses for our parishioners, when one informed us that a well-known chocolate-making company is this year not referring to their chocolate eggs as Easter Eggs. Instead their eggs will be called 'Bunny Eggs.' We expressed our disbelief!

What does your team think of this? We believe that the term 'Bunny Eggs' is misleading and does not carry the message of new life that is associated with Easter.

'Miffed'

Dear 'Miffed',

Biologically you are correct – this use of the name 'Bunny Eggs' is misleading, as rabbits don't lay eggs, but give birth to lots of little bunnies. However, an egg is necessary for the conception of a bunny, so there is an essence of truth in the name!

Personally, we prefer the term 'Easter Eggs', as the word 'Easter' reminds us of Jesus's Crucifixion and Resurrection, and eggs have become symbols of new life. Whatever their name, chocolate eggs on Easter Day bring moments of sheer delight to the faces of many children and adults – especially very old adults – and anything that can fill hearts with a surge of joie de vivre and an appreciation of new life, is to be blessed. That IS what Easter is all about – isn't it?

3	From the Editorial Team
4	A Prayer for All Seasons
5	Letters to the Editor
6	President's Notes
8	A Point to Ponder - The Meaning of "Christian Unity"
10	Inspirational Women - Rev Canon Dr Eleanor Sanderson; Rosemary Bent
14	Reader's Poem - Autumn
15	The Beauty of Butterflies
16	Social Concerns - Are You a Slave to Consumerism?
18	Overseas and Outreach
21	Mothers' Union
22	Diocesan News -
22	Wellington
25	Waikato/Taranaki
26	Christchurch
27	Polynesia
28	Waiapu
30	Nelson
32	Auckland
34	Dunedin
35	Recipe - Spiced Chicken with Pear

President's Notes

Dear Members

I write this column at the start of the Easter Triduum and a time of reflection on the impacts of Jesus' personal sacrifice for us. In the words of one writer: "Consider carefully, how one man has continued to change the lives of all, from a short 33 years of life on this Earth". Everything we do as Christ's disciples today has their grounding in the events of Good Friday and Easter.

It has also been a time for personal reflection as I retire from my role as a Special Needs Coordinator and an entire teaching career which has spanned about 33 years, and a time to think about the lives I have impacted over those years. Now new beginnings stretch ahead.

This reflection has extended to AAW, particularly as I have had the pleasure of visiting Hawkes Bay to speak at their Regional AGM at the end of March and a week ago Christchurch to talk at a Leader's Day. I have enjoyed the chance to share my vision for AAW with our members and have discussions

around how we are going to grow our organisation to continue our important work. One of the ladies made the point that we shouldn't always talk about changing our organisation but talk about growing and developing our focus.

It was lovely to meet up with many past leaders and stalwarts of AAW, including Jan Deavoll, a former past Provincial President who shared some of our history, on which I asked her to write an article for us. Hopefully others will do as well. It is lovely to honour these special women who have made our organisation what it is today. It is wonderful to see they are still passionate about AAW, just as when they first joined.

At a time of AGMs please consider leading or being a member of a committee so our groups can continue. Like so many of us I wouldn't be in my present position without AAW supporting and mentoring me.

Last month I chaired my first National Executive Meeting and we took part in a workshop on Gearing for Growth with Rev. Sandra

Williams, Wellington AAW President. This promoted lots of in-depth discussion. It is wonderful to hear what is going on in our different regions. Some of the main points will be highlighted through the magazine. It was sad to farewell Rosemary Bent who has been a devoted member of the Executive, in various positions, for many years. Her knowledge and wisdom, particularly in the field of missions will be sorely missed. More about her later in this edition.

Shortly I'm off for an 18-day retirement holiday to Vietnam and Cambodia with my husband, Anne (*Circle Graphics* Editor) and her husband.

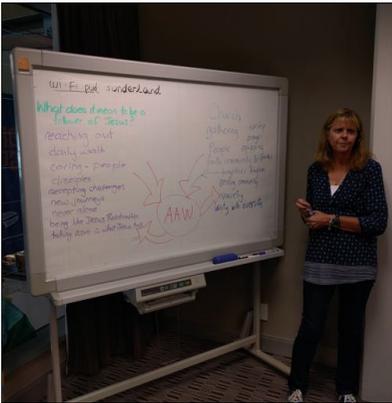
With Jesus' glorious resurrection beckoning I leave you with this quote: "The light of Christ is a free gift. And those who accept that gift bask in the glow of that light. Christ transforms that which is broken and makes it whole. When we receive the light of Christ, we come to realise that our lives are not the same and they will never be the same again." Fr. Doug Lasiter - Trinity Episcopal Church

Pat Vincent



Above: From left to right Dr Judith Mackenzie, Pat and Jan Deavoll

Below: Rev Sandra Williams giving her workshop at the National Executive Meeting.



A Point to Ponder

The Meaning of “Christian Unity” - David W. T. Brattston

David Brattston lives in Lunenburg Nova Scotia, Canada. For the past thirty-five years, he has been a member of the oldest congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, which has participated in a fraternal and co-operative relationship with the Anglican Church for decades. He frequently attends and partakes at the midweek Eucharist of his local Anglican church. Some of his articles have been published in Anglican magazines in Australia, Canada, England, South Africa, and the United States.

Is Christian unity merely two neighbouring congregations of the same denomination sponsoring a joint meal? Or two congregations of different denominations doing so? Co-operation in the World Council of Churches, and similar national and local organisations? Or did Jesus and His first followers want nothing short of the thorough-going structural union of two

previously independent denominations?

The earliest Christian writings help us to understand what ‘unity’ means and how to work towards it. This article looks at Christian literature before AD 250, when Christians could recall from living memory what Jesus and the apostles did in practice.

In John 17, Jesus prayed that Christians be united in the same way that He and the Father are united. Not knowing the way heaven is organised, we are little assisted by this in determining what ‘united’ means, except to observe that the Father and Son are two persons in constant contact with each other.

The essence of Christian unity later in the first century AD was the considerate treatment and mutual forbearance among Christ’s followers on a frequent basis: Romans 12.4f, 1 Corinthians 1.10, Ephesians 4.3 and Philippians 1.27 and 2.2.

Also in the first century, the congregation at Rome wrote to that at Corinth urging them to heal a rift

The Meaning of "Christian Unity"

in the congregation, and to re-establish peace, love, and unity among Christians who were in at least weekly contact with each other.

About AD 107, Bishop Ignatius of Antioch encouraged Christians to be united to their local clergy. An early-third-century church manual stressed unity of clerics within a congregation. Both Ignatius and the manual pressed for greater consolidation within the church to improve relations between Christians who had daily or weekly interactions with each other. In AD 197, the church father Tertullian saw Christian unity as being the gathering together of Christians in local public worship.

About AD 249, Origen identified unity in Christians agreeing to pray for the same request (Matthew 18.19), and in the apostles praying together in Acts 1.14. These are persons in each other's presence co-operating towards a common spiritual goal. Origen was the foremost Bible scholar and teacher of his time, and was frequently called upon as a

consultant by bishops throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

The above authors classed unity with such other interpersonal traits as peace, love, gentleness, courtesy, meekness, long-suffering, forbearance, hospitality, and recognition of the spiritual gifts of others. The same authors believed that unity is incompatible with strife, jealousy, arrogance, repaying evil for evil, and snobbishness. All these are attitudes or modes of relating to people with whom one is in personal contact.

In the Biblical sense, unity is thus a pattern of mind and behaviour, a mode of conducting one-to-one interpersonal relations, among Christians in frequent contact, and the fostering of peace, love, and harmony at the neighbourhood level. Not mentioned in the Bible, although Christianity had divided into different sects during the first century, structural interdenominational mergers contribute to Christian unity only to the extent they promote these local objectives.

Such an Inspirational Woman

On Saturday 11 March 2017, at the Wellington Diocesan Electoral College held in Palmerston North's Convention Centre, The Rev Canon Dr Eleanor Sanderson was nominated as Assistant Bishop of Wellington. Her nomination was later ratified by the House of Bishops and members of General Synod. Archbishops Philip Richardson and Winston Halapua announced her appointment, Archbishop Philip writing that he is

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

delighted at the outcome.

“Ellie Sanderson brings a deep spirituality, a pastoral heart and a breadth of learning that is respected across our Church. She is a person whom other people easily warm to. We are grateful to God that Ellie has been called to leadership alongside Bishop Justin in the Diocese of Wellington, and to serve as a bishop for the whole Church.”

Ellie, who was born and raised in the UK, is married to Tim who was born and bred in the Hutt Valley. They have two sons: Zachary (9) and Joseph (7). Ellie holds a PhD in Geography, for which her thesis explored the intersection between community development and Christian spirituality, through case studies of a Melanesian Anglican parish in Fiji, and a Mothers' Union group in rural Tanzania. She also holds a Master's degree in Theology, is a Fellow of Public Theology at the Virginian Theological Seminary, and a Research Associate at the School of Religious Studies at Victoria University.

Ellie has served in the Wellington

Inspirational Women continued

Diocese in various roles over the past sixteen years so knows our Diocese well. Ellie was ordained in 2006. She is at present serving as Vicar of St Alban's Eastbourne, is Chaplain of Wellesley College Day's Bay, and is the Diocesan Canon Theologian. Bishop-Elect Sanderson will be ordained as Bishop at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul on the evening of Friday 2 June 2017.

Meanwhile, Ellie has reflected on what becoming the Assistant Bishop of Wellington means for her: "My role will be to support Bishop Justin in leading from what is already a strong platform... In this role it's important for me to get alongside the people of the Diocese and listen, so that I can hear their challenges and lead with greater clarity... In a sense, when you enter ministry you marry the church – you love the church in all its humanness, its beauty and its brokenness, so, in this position, I aim to operate from a place of love."

Bishop Justin writes: "I am so thankful to Ellie and her family for saying 'Yes' to God's call. We see



**Rev Canon Dr Ellie Sanderson,
Assistant Bishop-Elect, Wellington
Diocese**

a strength and depth of leadership in her that we believe will help catalyse a next generation of leaders amongst us." Bishop-Elect Ellie's appointment will allow Bishop Justin to spend more time in the north of the diocese, and he plans to move to Whanganui soon.

Members of the AAW and Mothers' Union are also delighted at Ellie's appointment. We regard her as such an inspirational woman, respecting her for her ability as a speaker and writer, for her wisdom, for her warm empathy, and for her deep faith.

Inspirational Women - Rosemary Bent

Honouring Rosemary Bent

Rosemary Bent, a pillar of Mothers' Union both in Aotearoa and Pasifika, has inspired AAW and MU members with her work in Overseas and Outreach.

She became O&O Convenor for the Waikato in the 1980's; and when Rosemary and her husband (The Very Rev Michael Bent) went to Fiji in 1989, she was the Circle correspondent on the Polynesian Executive, using her office training to help Sr Clare Masina at St

Christopher's home with her personal correspondence, and acting as secretary for the St Christopher's Board of Governors. She encouraged two of the Sisters to write simple thank-you letters to save Sr Clare drafting them all – they were reluctant at first until she told them that however bad their first attempts were, they were better than her Fijian or Hindi! The Fijian Sister eventually took over from Rosemary on the Board of Governors.

Life was not easy in Fiji at that time as Rosemary and Michael experienced the first two coups. On one occasion Michael was threatened with stoning when trying to take Communion to the sick in the hospital in Suva!

They returned to Waikato in 1989, where Rosemary had another term as O&O Convenor; then in 1994 they



Rosemary Bent (left) receiving a Certificate of Recognition given by the NZ AAW Executive.

Inspirational Women continued

were called to Papua-New Guinea. Rosemary writes: “I taught English to the Anglican Nursing Students and helped establish the Women’s Programme at Newton Theological College. This programme received funding from the O&O grants and was a wonderful help to students’ wives, giving them opportunities to learn English or pidgin if they could not read. I taught them how to make more nutritious food using vegetables and fruit from their gardens, how to share one egg by using it in cooking instead of father having it to himself, and unravelled the mystery of a cooking stove when they were used to outside fires. The O&O grant helped pay for books, newspapers and other extras to make learning practical and enjoyable. Always the letters and assurance of prayers from AAW members bolstered us in the sometime dangerous situations we found ourselves in – held up in the house at night and being shot at in our vehicle during the day were not the most pleasant experiences.”

Back in NZ in 1998, Rosemary was for 3 years NZ O&O

Convenor; 2008-2011 she was Provincial President of NZMU and MU representative on the NZAAW Executive. Since 2011, she has been working alongside the Provincial President of NZMU, the Rev Iritana Hankins, attending NZAAW meetings as Iritana’s representative, and writing articles for Circle.

Iritana writes: “Rosemary’s leadership skills, coupled with her extensive knowledge of protocols and her encouragement style have allowed me and others to work closely with her. During my post as PP, she has been my ‘Kuia’ who has ‘guided me through many floods to reach dry land’.”

The AAW Executive acknowledges that Rosemary’s serving with her husband Michael in Fiji and Papua-New Guinea, and her knowledge of places in Melanesia, has been invaluable when in discussion with their O&O Mission Partners. They echo Iritana’s blessing of Rosemary:

“May the Lord bless and keep you in your ministry.”

Autumn - A Sacrament of Letting Go

An autumn leaf is so beautiful, Lord
Its colours dry and crisp –
Not proclaiming one colour boldly as before
But several – as if not wanting just yet
To let go of energy and life.
But Autumn is a time of letting go
A sacrament of letting go.

AUTUMN – I watch eagerly for its subtle coming,
Tiring of the heat and drain of Summer.
At first the leaves so gently and serenely –
As if not wanting or needing to be noticed –
Change while still on tree.
Then, as though with surprised expectation
One by one they do let go –
To be blown by winds and cooler climes.
Falling always with grace and ease
To be tossed – still beautiful and proud
Enjoying the freedom,
Until they settle - lying exposed on the ground
With faces to the sky
And they have let go.

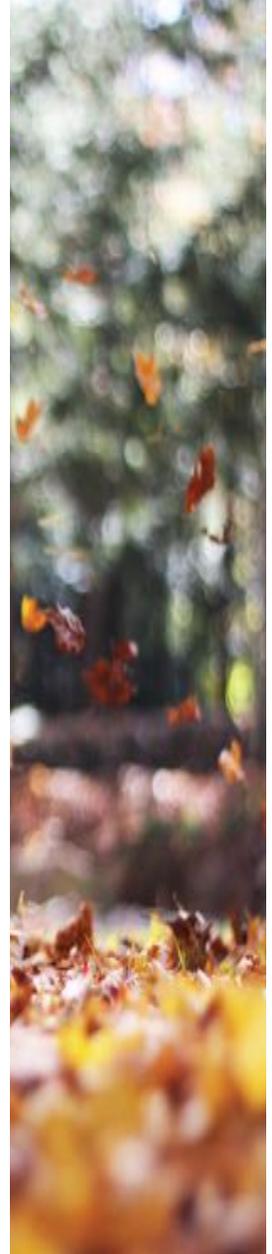
As I walk I notice the shadow
Their imprints have left on the path.
'Remember me – remember me,' they seem to say.

While the tree, now almost bare –
Empty and silent, looks on.
I know Winter has nearly come.

For me, an Autumn struggler –
Autumn is the sacrament of letting go

Letting go and letting God.

Chris Robertson-Parkes [Lone Member Waiapu]



The Beauty of Butterflies

Nearly nineteen years ago when my mother died, it was her great-grandchildren's first experience of death so they felt a profound sense of loss. Except for Cia, the eldest, who had just turned five.

After the funeral, Cia told me, "I know all about death – Mummy explained it to me, and you should be very happy and not cry when people die."

"Is that so?" was my response.

"Yes Gran. When a person dies their inside self slips away out of their body, and goes to heaven to be with God. Just like my monarch butterflies that split their way out of their chrysalises and then fly away. We weren't burying Nana today," she continued. "We were burying her chrysalis, and I was very happy and proud helping to push her coffin out of church, because I knew she was alive and happy in heaven."

Immediately there came to my mind a vision of heaven as a place full of beautiful and colourful happy butterflies, and I felt at peace.

I should not have been surprised at Cia's story, as I had heard the

analogy of butterflies used in a sermon at a family Service one Easter Day. The vicar had had a long string of chrysalises to show the children, and, joy of joys, one of the chrysalises split. The congregation held its breath as the monarch butterfly emerged. "See," the vicar said, "this is like what happened in the tomb when Jesus rose on Easter morning. He just slipped out of the shroud, the material he had been wrapped in, and went on his way, leaving his shroud empty behind him."

I have always loved the cycle of butterflies and we used to grow swan plants each summer specifically for our children and their friends to understand their process of development. But now, butterflies have an extra significance, for they illustrate to me the metamorphosis of death into the beauty of eternal life.

Mary Houston



Social Concerns - A Reflection

Are You a Slave to Consumerism?

Some years ago, I bought a queen-sized bed to replace the double bed we had. I think we might have needed a new mattress, but we didn't really need a bigger bed, although somehow, I convinced myself that I would sleep better if we had one. Having bought the bigger bed I then, of course, had to buy queen-sized sheets, duvets and duvet covers. Who benefitted? Not me, for in all honesty I cannot claim to sleep any better.

That bed is a kind of symbol for me now. I bought something I didn't really need but somehow was persuaded that I DID need – the ultimate consumer! I think it's time for us, as Christian women - and after all it is women who do most of the shopping - to challenge the whole way of life in our culture which encourages us to consume, consume, consume, at whatever cost to the environment or to our budget. Of course, I am not talking about the day-to-day

shopping of the many things we need, but the first question we could ask ourselves before making any large purchase is, "Do I really need it?"

I suppose we nearly all get a bit of a buzz from a special buy, and we even talk of "retail therapy", but why is that? Are our lives so empty that we need to buy something to lift our spirits? If we really can't beat the need for "retail therapy" we can turn it to better purpose by patronising the many second hand shops. That way, your purse, a charity and the environment will all benefit.

Then there's the size of things! Not only are we often persuaded to buy things we don't need, but everything seems to have got bigger! Think of the size of towels, and dinner plates these days, not to mention the scones and muffins in the cafes. That bigger size has used up more of the resources of the earth, and may well keep on being demanding of resources. Those big towels – and queen-sized sheets- quickly fill your washing

Are You a Slave to Consumerism?

machine. So, thinking small for some household things can be a good shopping habit.

Another important thing to consider if we are to be responsible consumers is to try to find out where the object was made, who made it and under what conditions, and what resources were used in its manufacture. These are tough questions: we know that poverty-stricken people may have no choice about their conditions of work and need that job at all cost, but we need to be aware that sometimes our clothing is cheap because it has been produced in dangerous and exploitative conditions. We need to learn about which companies operate in the most ethical way, and which, on the other hand, we should boycott. And what about the present-buying we as parents and grandparents often undertake?



When we are buying for smaller children we can stop and ask ourselves “What message am I sending with this present?” – apart from “I love you” of course! Books and toys can carry powerful messages. Ask yourself whether this book or plaything expands your child’s understanding of themselves, or of the world, or of humanity, or does it reinforce stereotypes and narrow world views? Again, these are not simple questions but worth pausing over.

The Care of Creation is part of our Church’s Mission, and as AAW members we “unite in prayer and participate in the Mission of the Church.” So, let’s aim to be responsible consumers, and ask some questions of ourselves and of the product-makers before we buy.

Judy Mills

Overseas and Outreach

Greetings to all readers.

As winter approaches, I hope this finds you warm and well. Our Missions Partner Tessa Laing brings us this story which has the value of teamwork as its theme. I am sure it will resonate with many of our readers:

**Tessa Laing, (Husband Nick)
from Gulu, Northern Uganda**

“Cheap avocados. 50c bags of mangoes. Hobbit-worthy grass-thatched dome housing. An orange vine winding over the veranda.

Living 100% off the grid. It’s the dream! The sun’s energy to charge your laptop and rain to provide water to hand-wash your clothes (which is very idyllic and not at all tedious). Whether you’re a teacher, a change-maker, a business person, a nurse, or a theologian, there’s more at stake and more potential here than anything you’ve encountered before. God’s at work and there’s plenty to do. So come join our little team.

Lately I’ve been thinking about what it would be like here in Gulu, Northern Uganda, if we were part of a mini-team with a shared purpose and common rhythms. My husband, Nick, and I have lived here now for over three years....



Tessa outside her grass-thatched dome house

Around a year in, we found we deeply missed culturally-familiar conversations with similarly educated people and fellow Christians who were willing to pursue us, hold us accountable and challenge us. . . .

A month ago, I sat in Gulu's dusty, bustling car park, carefully scanning the rows of passengers on each bus that swung in. Right on time, our friend emerged with his glorious kiwi accent, wearing a marmite-laden tramping pack. My sister arrived a week later, and another friend just in time for Christmas. Now, with five of us living in our little hut, we have a glimpse at what team-hood might be like here.

Since they've arrived I've been thinking even more about why doing life and mission as a team makes a lot of sense. Here's my top five:

1. Becoming more available to neighbours

This Saturday morning our neighbour Lucy popped around to charge her phone with our solar and bring us a papaya from her tree. Our friend Opiyo dropped by to process some bad news: his

carpentry teacher was killed in a car crash. After lunch a band of four kids arrived ready to read their story-books, answer a quiz on the content and swap their books for new ones. We want to be available to our neighbours, and we want to be part of our community. But with just the two of us, we can't always handle so many visitors. Since our three friends arrived, if I have my hands full cooking dinner, or I've had a rough day, we don't have to turn the kids away. There's usually someone there with the energy to make someone welcome.

2. Life logistics

Without running water, washing machines, a stove top or a fridge, life takes a bit longer. Division of labour is not an overrated concept. We take turns cooking, and it's just way more efficient. My sister and I wash the clothes, and the boys fetch the water from the borehole with a wheelbarrow. We all get to avoid our least favourite tasks!

3. Greater scope for creative re-charge time

Before we arrived in Uganda, Nick and I never, ever watched TV series. . . . Often we've felt too exhausted by the work day,

Overseas and Outreach continued

community interaction and domestic tasks to find the energy to do much else. Local friends don't like to move around after dark so there are limited social opportunities. Since our visitors arrived, bringing with them new energy and creativity, we've spent more time singing, running, playing games and discussing life over long meals outside. Some forms of relaxing are just better for the soul.

4. Spiritual discipline

There's this bit in Romans which read: "I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another" (The Message, 7.15). I know I'm not healthy if I don't regularly take time out to be quiet and listen to God. Yet I too frequently lack discipline to actually do it! I'd love to try group spiritual rhythms and times for prayer; whether it was something collective or an individual thing we all do at the same time. Other people can help us commit to ways of life that we've decided we want.

5. Common vision for a common location

A month ago I was part of a disastrous meeting. It felt like our community organising group was irretrievably falling apart at the seams. I was low, confused. I came home to our temporary team. They were a sounding board, giving me perspective and hope. And sometimes, discussions lead to new ideas altogether.

The other day, my sisters and I were thinking about what the early seeds of an organic women's rights movement would look like in Gulu, and we discussed the idea of starting a women's dance and discussion group.

There's something special about living with people with common visions for a common location. Frustrations get aired and discussed. Challenges collectively pondered. New creative ideas emerge.

So that's what I've been thinking lately. It's been a great, tumultuous, inspiring three years by ourselves. But there might be a whole other way of doing things round the bend.

Shelley Vette, Overseas and Outreach Convenor

Mothers' Union

In March, the Mothers' Union Worldwide Council, made up of all Provincial and Diocesan Presidents met in Dublin to vote on the new Constitution taking in mind the wishes of members and the legal requirements of MU as a Charity.

As the majority of members were not able to attend each was given the opportunity of naming a proxy to vote on their behalf. The result is a more streamlined Constitution more properly reflecting the 'worldwide' make up of Mothers' Union. Our Provincial President attended and was able to visit MU Scotland en route.

Membership Lists have been sent to the Bishop of Auckland's office as the first stage of voting for a new Provincial President, and nomination forms have been sent out. By the time of this *Circle* we should know who will be taking office for the next 3 years.

Christchurch members have invited Heather Dawson, Wellington, (April) and Joan Neild, Auckland, (May) to speak and are looking forward to hearing news of MU in their respective dioceses.

Waikato and Taranaki numbers

increased when 16 new members were Admitted in March, including a husband and wife. I will also be Admitting two new members at the May meeting of St Peter's Hamilton group. Arrangements are in hand for some of the group to travel to the Solomon Islands in June to meet with MU members there. The Archbishop of Melanesia and his wife were able to spend a weekend at the Hamilton Cathedral in March.

At Auckland Mothers' Union's AGM all groups reported on the various activities undertaken including help for the ATWC, prisoners, warm clothing for children.

Wellington is arranging the first *Away From It All* holiday for a family over Easter. Members have been fundraising and all accommodation, food and entertainment costs have been covered. We hope this will be the first of many such holidays.

This is my final article for *Circle*. I have enjoyed sharing with you over the past 9 years, first as Provincial President and then 6 years as Iritana's deputy.

Rosemary Bent

An Eventful Day

The 25th February dawned as a lovely sunny day, the perfect day to celebrate AAW Sunday with a diocesan picnic in the Bason Botanic Gardens Whanganui. Four of us set off in good spirits from Waikanae in Rosemary Hurd's car. Just out of Levin our day was shattered as we were rear-ended by a woman driving a large four-wheel drive car. We were all so lucky to escape injury as we found the rear window had completely shattered and the rear of the car was staved in. The police and ambulance were duly called and promptly came.



From left: Anne Carpenter, Rosemary Hurd, Pat Vincent and Sheila Grounsell

The police said we couldn't drive the car as the petrol tank was located at the back of the car. They very kindly drove us back to Waikanae in two of their cars. While we were waiting a fire engine appeared and we saw black smoke rising from the field behind, apparently an old pig farm had caught fire.

Those who went to the picnic had a lovely day sharing fellowship and a special garden service.

Pat Vincent

Lady Day Celebration

A Service of Thanksgiving with the theme *Faith in Action* was celebrated on Lady Day – the Annunciation of our Saviour to the Blessed Virgin Mary – Saturday 25 March in St Mark's Church, Raumati.

This uplifting service was attended by members of the Mothers' Union and AAW, mainly from the

Kapiti Coast but also from Wanganui and Lower Hutt. Our MU Diocesan President, Heather Dawson led the service and the celebrant was the Rev. Barbara Bonifant. Intercessions and Lessons were read by MU members.

Participants commented on the beauty and originality of the service, prepared by Barbara and Heather using excerpts from the service last year in Winchester Cathedral, (where MU began celebrating 140 years of active Mothers' Union work throughout the world).

The Intercessions were particularly meaningful as we prayed for distressed folk in life from the premature newborn, pre-teens, teenagers, young parents, those made redundant in middle age, the retired and those coming to the end of their lives. The Lord's Prayer was from Night Prayer on page 181 in our *New Zealand Prayer Book*, a

welcome alternative.

In place of a sermon Heather shared stories of recent MU activity in our Diocese – blankets for the City Mission last winter followed later by gifts of sanitary products, the Lenten Thanksgiving programme happening now and the *Away from it All* holidays, AFIA, which MU members organise in several countries round the world. The first one in New Zealand is planned for three nights in the Easter holidays at El Rancho Christian Holiday Park in Waikanae. A family of four, who have never had a holiday, will have four days together with accommodation, meals and entertainment paid for by MU/AAW members from the Offering and



Lady Day Service

Bring & Buy profits from several Lady Day services in the past few years. Offering this year was \$251 with \$63 raised on the B&B table. A good \$314 boost to the AFIA fund.

Following the service we held a short Council Meeting in the church to discuss raising our MU sub at the Diocesan AAW AGM in May. Then we walked up the hill to a most enjoyable shared lunch with lots of chatter and the opportunity to buy MU cards and stationery and a variety of things from the Bring & Buy table. A day enjoyed by all as we renewed old friendships and learned from each other.

Anne Carpenter

Waikanae

Is there such a thing as a Christian Life Style?

Megan Stanley and her daughter Serenity were the guests at the March meeting of the AAW Waikanae. Megan and her husband and daughter belong to the monastic community known as Ngatiawa, River Monastery, set in the foot hills of the Tararua Mountains. Here, the monastic rhythm of life demands

discipline of prayer and action.

Megan and her husband are very grounded in their life in this place giving hospitality to visitors who may just come for a one off visit, regularly visit or stay for some time. God is full of surprises, so this hospitality varies from person to person and situation to situation also depending on the circumstances of those who come. Living in this community has its challenges so to be open to God's prompting and acceptance, of that peace beyond all understanding, is vital. We are called in many different ways to live out a Christian life style and for Megan and her family this is the way.



Megan and Serenity

Diocesan News - Waikato/Taranaki

St Luke's Te Kuiti is situated in the heart of the King Country, in a picturesque valley near the world famous Waitomo Caves and the increasingly popular Timber Trail Cycleway. Our Fellowship Group is a small but vital part of St Luke's Church.

One of the major events of the year held by the Fellowship Group is the Annual August Luncheon Meeting. This is a fundraising lunch to which members of other congregations and AAW Groups are invited. Last year's was in support of

Mission to Lepers at which Elizabeth Peters was the guest speaker. We were pleased to be able to present her with a donation of \$300.

At the meeting this year, to be held on 3rd August, the guest speaker will be Pastor Terry Bradley of the Journey church. He will be talking on last year's devastating earthquake in Nepal.

All proceeds will be donated for ongoing earthquake recovery efforts in Nepal.

*Enquiries to Rhonda Borgas on
rhonda.b@slingshot.co.nz*

Diocesan News - Wellington continued

Wanganui

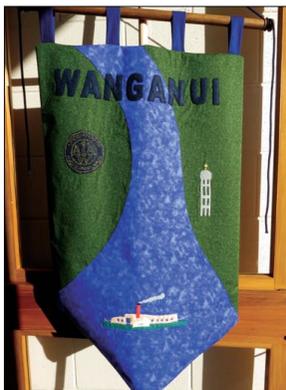
For years the women of Wanganui have been attending big meetings that require banners. But unfortunately Wanganui had no banner and was feeling at a loss.

Last year, as we were going through a city wide parish amalgamation, it was mooted that we should

get on and make one. With the design on paper, and material bought, the process began. It took 2 ½ months to complete as everything had to be hand stitched.

It shows our river, the iconic river boat the Waimarie, and the Bastia Hill water tower which has a cross that lights up every night.

Christine Goodin



Wanganui's banner

Diocesan News - Christchurch

You, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your loving kindness and Your truth will continually preserve me. Psalm 40:11

The Lord's protection has been on my mind all week as I think of the people of Kaikoura and surrounding districts with the terrible earthquake. I know that you will be keeping them in your thoughts and prayers as well. Our Diocesan committee meets in a couple of days so I am sure that we will be considering ways that we can help either now or further down the track.

In October 2016, we held an Overseas and Outreach morning with Rev. Mike Hawke, the then Church Support and Projects Officer of Anglican Missions Board. (He is now Dean of Nelson Cathedral.) As well as travelling around NZ speaking, he also travelled to the Pacific Islands.

He was in Fiji on an outer island when Cyclone Winston struck in February. Mike told us that this cyclone had winds of up to 350 km/hour. How does one find shelter in such terrible conditions? The answer, we found, was to hide under the floor boards. There were stories of families saved by doing this. One

was a story of a man who flew with the remainder of his house 50 metres; the rest of the family were under the floor boards. Miraculously, the man survived as well.

Mike was able to show us lots of images of the carnage and also the images of hope, of the local Bishop Winston praying for many in villages, and pictures of Mike with his guitar singing songs of God's love and faithfulness with children. He led us AAW ladies in a rousing song of "God's not dead – he is alive".

There were many questions following Mike's talk, quite a few about AAW projects in Fiji. They have all escaped relatively

cont'd next page



Rev Mike Hawke and his guitar



The people are standing where Simone Ravu's house once stood

Diocesan News - Polynesia

Water Tanks for Tonga Project:

Just a reminder that this project will close at the end of May. At the time of writing, we have raised over \$13,000 and it would be great if we had \$15,000 to enable us to purchase three tanks (tanks cost \$5,000 each installed). Please send

any further donations to your Diocesan Treasurer, who will then forward them to our National Treasurer, Joan Honeyfield.

A big thank you to all of you who have contributed to this project. Please continue to pray for our Missions Partners.

Where are the water tanks going to?

Ha'apai	(Holy Trinity, Ha'apai)	2
Nei'afu - resettlement of outer island	(St Andrew's, Va'vau)	1
Tonga Training Centre	(Tonga Archdeaconry)	1
Nuku'alofa	(St Matthias Church)	1
Fasi Community Centre Hall	(All Saint's Church)	1

Diocesan News - Christchurch continued

unscathed because it was the top northwest of the main island and some outer islands that were most badly affected.

There were also questions about the water tanks that we raised money for a few years ago, many of these did have problems but in such extreme winds this would be expected. It does highlight the need for the supporting structures to be well engineered and the wood of good quality! Mike was in one

place and a tank collapsed of its own accord due to rotten wood!

In a world where for the media, last month's disaster (or last year's) is no longer news, we need to still remember the people of Fiji still rebuilding their lives and villages. We all know that this is a slow process, but where funding is not available it is even slower.

*Fay Deam, Overseas & Outreach Co-ordinator AAW
Diocese of Christchurch*

Diocesan News - Waiapu

The start of the year always includes AAW Sunday and groups come up with some novel ways of celebrating this. The service at Holy Trinity Gisborne, focused on the value of women's work and women's representation on boards and committees. This followed on from the *Suffragettes* theme in 2016.



Catharine demonstrating flax fibre making

In January, when my husband, Bruce, and I visited Tawhiti Museum, Hawera, we experienced their Whalers and Traders exhibit. I was appalled to hear that local Maori women were once committed to providing muka (flax fibre) by the ton in exchange for muskets. Women could each produce about 10lbs of fibre per day. I worked out it would take a woman almost 10 months to produce 1 ton = 5 fadges = 1 gun. Presumably women worked together and produced it more quickly.

On AAW Sunday the church was set up with a fadge (wool bale) by the aisle, flax fishing creels full of fibre, flax, scales from the Museum of Technology and my old scales

for weighing babies. During the service, after minimal instructions, two of our women agreed to produce fibre. At the end of the service about ¼lb was produced.

Women of the day would have been experienced in flax work; tribes that had weapons had an advantage in warfare. Women were proud to support their tribes but it did seem a lot of work for little reward.

Chelsey, our tribal negotiator, tried to argue an increase to 2 muskets because of the superior quality of fibre produced by the women. However Bruce, Mr Pakeha Trader, was adamant that we only agreed for 1 in the contract!

Diocesan News -Waiapu continued

The next day Julie, our secretary, by chance found a musket ball while gardening – serendipity.

Well done to our members who carried out these and other tasks during the service.

Catharine White

The Napier Cathedral AAW spent their first meeting in 2017, at the Napier ice-cream parlour, "Lick This", where the ice-cream, gelatos and sorbets are all made on site. We learned a lot about the way these are made, though the recipes remained a secret! After the sampling was finished we went onto our meeting, where we relived our December stroll around the city's sea-wall murals.



Pat Vincent with past Regional President, Ruth Hale (centre) and Kay Brabender (right)

NZ President Pat Vincent was the guest speaker at the Hawke's Bay Regional AGM March 25, Lady Day, in St Luke's Havelock North. Over 30 attended, some from as far away as Woodville. Everyone appreciated Pat's lively and encouraging talk. She reminded us of the important work done by AAW in Social Concerns, and Overseas and Outreach encouraging us to think of new ways of communicating with women not currently members.

As the Church was needed for a funeral, after Pat's talk we proved our flexibility and enterprise by adjourning to Waiapu House for the AGM, the Commissioning Service and lunch. Thanks to Chaplain Revd Jan Tapper



Negotiating better conditions

Diocesan News - Nelson

Waimea Fellowship Group

Waimea Women's Fellowship went to Wakefield for their April Meeting. The guest speaker was Jana Trask a dog trainer who loves dogs and sheep. She studied Canine Behaviour and Genetics at Massey.

The Biblical picture of sheep as knowing their master's voice and following when he calls, is how she looks after her small flock. Also the Bible picture of dogs as predators, cunning and liable to lead people astray came from the fact the Jews hated the Romans whose symbol was a wolf.

She talked about Service Dogs who are being trained to help specific people to do tasks that they find difficult. A dog she knows helps a person with epilepsy, and it has been proved that the dog lowers the anxiety and allows the person to

recover more quickly. Seizure dogs are trained not to eat anything off the floor as spilt pills may kill them; only the Client can feed them. There is a psychological benefit from stroking animals.

Waimea Women's Fellowship started the year off with a picnic in Snowden's Bush. As it wasn't the best day they ended up on the patio of the new Vicarage under an umbrella. It was good to have a catch up after the Christmas holidays.

Cathedral AAW

The Cathedral AAW were very involved with the Christmas Tree Festival and sold refreshments to help our funds. The whole Christmas Tree Festival was the best yet with many visitors from home and overseas.

February was our Commissioning and Communion which was held in the main Cathedral and taken by our new Dean Mike Hawke and made the whole service very memorable - including singing hymns in the Choir stalls.

In March we had Dean Mike Hawke as the guest speaker telling



Jana Trask (right). Ele Smeaton is taking notes.

us of his very interesting life. Also in March we had our Annual AAW Sunday and Mothering Sunday and the whole service was dedicated to Mothers and AAW with our members giving the readings and intercessions - AAW banners were paraded from the Region. We had a great turnout from other Groups and all ladies in the congregation were presented with a posy of flowers which our ladies had made the day before.

Holy Trinity Richmond AAW

Instead of our January meeting we had our usual morning teas, held in members' homes on each Thursday of the month. These are popular and generally well-attended.

Our February meeting was devoted to planning events for the coming year. These could be disrupted by the demolishing and rebuilding of our church hall. We are waiting to see if there will be an alternative venue on offer, otherwise we will probably use the church or people's homes. This meeting was well-attended.

On the 3rd March we participated in the World Day of Prayer held at Holy Trinity.

The Afternoon AAW Group were delighted to have the Evening Group join them for the Commissioning Service in February. This was the first time that the two groups had joined together as not all the Evening Group members are able to attend afternoon services. We were pleased to welcome eleven Evening members and eighteen Afternoon members. Rev. Susan Gill led the service. Two of the longest serving members, Margaret Silke and Gwen Thomas gave a short address on "What AAW means to me" followed by Madeline McRae from the Evening Group.

Following the Commissioning of the two Leaders of the Groups, Jean McConachie spoke on what the AAW had meant to her over the past eight years of Leadership. Anne Webb followed this with our hopes for the year ahead, which may see challenging times as our meeting venue is to be replaced.

As the members of the Evening Group were all in their 80's & 90's it would have fallen into recess if a much younger lady, who had never previously been a member of an AAW group, had not taken on their Leadership.

A Weekend with Joy Cowley - AAW's Gift to St Stephens and the Wider Community

What a blessing! What a privilege! What an opportunity! We say again, what a blessing to spend a weekend with the renowned New Zealand author and ministry leader Joy Cowley.

How did this opportunity come about?

One of our AAW committee members had a "God thought" about inviting Joy to visit and minister to our AAW group. However, God had bigger plans for our group and the outcome of this "God thought" resulted in an enormous blessing for the women in our congregation and the wider community. The "God thought" was to invite Joy Cowley to our humble AAW group.

How did this God thought materialise?

Joy offered to run a one day retreat for us, at no cost to our AAW group, entitled, ***Reaching Out: A Feminine Gift***

On Saturday 12th of February around 60 women gathered in our church for a full day of listening to



Joy and Win, the oldest retreat participant, aged 99

Joy's four presentations, reflecting on them, sharing any significant personal experiences, with Joy adding her response.

To begin our retreat, our vicar Ian and wife Helen warmly welcomed Joy and all visitors to our church. Participants included the AAW Auckland President and Secretary, representatives from many of the Anglican churches in the Auckland Diocese, women from other local churches and further north, as well as 27 women from our congregation. As indicated by the title, the focus of the day was how the role of women in mission complements that of men. Retreat participants were invited to move through a series of steps which included reflecting upon:

- Spiritual influences and spiritual experiences which have shaped us;
 - Strong women around Jesus, and how they influenced his ministry, such as Mary at the marriage at Cana (John 2: 1-11), the Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4: 5-26) and more;
 - On love and fear in our lives and how these influence our faith; and
 - Our inner faith, our inner being, which permeates our whole existence changing our lives forever.

Why did AAW combine Joy's visit with our AAW Sunday?

Providing a retreat as a gift for women in our church and wider community seemed a very positive

way to commence the new year for AAW group. At both Sunday services the AAW theme was incorporated. This included parading the banner, members participating in the services, singing the AAW hymn and saying the AAW prayer. In addition, at the 10 am service the new committee was commissioned by our vicar. Children (and adults too) at this service were blessed by Joy, the story teller, captivating us all with telling one of her enchanting stories that was both entertaining and yet had a clear underlying message that we need to love ourselves the way God created us.

And the feedback for the day?

How rewarding it was to receive so much voluntary positive feedback, both verbally and by email. In many ways, it was confirming God's blessing through Joy to so many women.

We praise God for enabling us to share this weekend with Joy Cowley.



L: Enjoying lunch together

Diocesan News - Dunedin

Two notable events

The evening AAW group at All Saints' Dunedin North recently hosted a Passover Meal where they enjoyed the reflective traditions associated with this ancient Jewish tradition. It was an evening of friendship, beautiful food and excellent music (provided by the 'A Capella' group who happened to be practising in the adjoining hall).

The Dunedin Diocesan AGM was held on Saturday 11 March at St John's Roslyn, Dunedin. The only change on the Executive was Margaret McLanachan replacing Kensie Sutton who had been our *Circle* distributor for many years. Kensie was thanked by President Anne and was presented with a certificate and a cyclamen.

Following the Eucharist and Commissioning of the Executive we enjoyed lunch together. Sister Mary Hepburn and Rev'd Jan Clark gave stimulating talks during the afternoon on the theme of 'Growing through Dreams – the link between faith and dreams'. We also had fun coming up with songs that featured 'dreams' and bible references to 'dreams'.



Dunedin North Passover Meal



L: Kensie Sutton and Anne Gover; R: Banners at the AGM service



Sister Mary Hepburn and Rev Jan Clark

A Versatile Dinner Recipe - Spiced Chicken with Pear

Recipes for one-pot meals are always needed; also parish pastoral care teams often search for recipes for larger one-pot meals that can be frozen in one-meal plastic containers. This chicken and pear recipe is something a little different that can be

served with mashed potato, couscous, rice or toast. The quantities can be multiplied easily and the ingredients are not expensive.

Note: Apple juice can be replaced by extra chicken stock.

Preparation Time: 10 mins

Cooking Time: 20 mins

Serves 1

- 1 chicken breast fillet
- 1 tablespoon seasoned plain flour
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 10g butter
- 1 small onion, finely sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup (125ml) apple juice
- 1/2 small chicken stock cube
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 small pear (ideally Beurre Bosc), peeled, cored and quartered

Method

Coat the chicken with the flour and shake off any excess. Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the chicken over medium heat for 2-3 minutes each side or until lightly browned. Remove and keep warm. Melt the butter in the pan, add the

onion and spices and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until golden. Stir in the apple juice, stock cube and honey, bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 2 minutes. Return the chicken to the frying pan, add the pear quarters and simmer, covered for 5 minutes. Turn the chicken and pear over and simmer for a further 5 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. Place the chicken and pear on a warm plate, spoon on the sauce and serve with steamed couscous.

Nutrition per serve: Protein 30g; Fat 20g; Carbohydrate 45g; Dietary Fibre 4.5g; Cholesterol 85mg; 2067kJ (494 cal)



