

Circle

Volume 49, No. 3

August 2017

**Social Concerns
- Having our Say**

**A Point to Ponder
- Choices**

**Nothing is as
Beautiful as
Spring**

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 - Daffodils
Back Cover - Plum blossom**

Copy deadline for the next issue:

30 September

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

From the Editorial Team

After a cold winter, we are anticipating Spring in this August issue, a time of great beauty as gardens clothe themselves in blossom and flowers in celebration of the new life that Spring brings. We hope you enjoy this ‘flowery’ issue; that it brings some colour into your lives.

Our sincere thanks to all our contributors. We have some interesting articles, poems, a bucket-list travelogue, a spring recipe to make, and an interview with an Inspirational Woman.

Unfortunately, you will see there are a few gaps as far as news from Dioceses is concerned. Remember, your magazine’s content can only be as good as the contributions you send us.

Please keep letters to the editorial team rolling in; they can be sent directly to Mary Houston at rmhouston@clear.net.nz And we do enjoy general feedback from our readers.

The last issue for the year will focus on Christmas.

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Letters to the Editorial Team

Dear Editorial Team,

Those of us women in the grandmother and great-grandmother generations who have skills in gardening, knitting and baking, would probably have appreciated the compliments in a recent AA Insurance advertisement by their advertising team, if it were not for the tone of voice used.

I would like to know how the team feels about the patronizing material and stereotyping of ladies of our age, used in advertisements. I thought we had escaped this stereotyping years ago – even if we ever did fit into it!

‘Pipped’

Dear ‘Pipped’,

The problem is that men have not yet realized that we older women were of the first generation of those who worked while raising a family, who became involved in public organizations, who dared voice their opinions in a man’s world. We are doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, retailers, office workers...all sorts of professional

career women who have led the way by developing lives of our own, outside the home; lives which have complemented and enriched our families’ lives.

Now as grandmothers and great-grandmothers we still have a voice. Ironically many of us are now also caregivers for our grandchildren, a necessary role that has developed where solo parents or two-income families need our support in order to cope. Stereotyping us therefore as permed-grey-haired, bespectacled, cardigan-wearing, sedentary ladies occupied with knitting and jig-saw puzzles is just not fair, because that is not who we really are!

Editorial Team



The estate of the late Barbara Archer has included a bequest to AAW.

Barbara was an AAW leader and Treasurer of the Rangitikei Group, Mothers' Union Treasurer from 1963-69, and author of the 1969-79 section of A History of the Mothers' Union and Association of Anglican Women in New Zealand. She died in Palmerston North in December 2015.

The AAW is very grateful for this bequest, and can assure Barbara's family and friends that this legacy will be carefully used in Barbara's memory.



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President's Notes

Dear Members

As I write this we are into the depths of winter so I hope this finds you keeping warm and free of chills. Of course, this will be our spring edition so we will be looking forward to new beginnings. For me this is apt as I retired from my teaching job six weeks ago after teaching at the same school for 30 years. So it is a time of exploring what additional interests I may want to do and also being able to enjoy some extra free time.

Brian and I have just returned from a wonderful 18 day trip to Cambodia and Vietnam where we enjoyed very warm weather, great food and lots of new experiences, with many visits to lovely temples and other sights. Anne, our Graphics Editor and her husband Rod came with us, so that made it extra special. One of the highlights was visiting Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This is the largest religious monument in the world, according to Wikipedia and it was originally constructed as a Hindu temple of the God Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, gradually changing

into a Buddhist Temple towards the end of the 12th century. The incredible architecture and decoration takes your breath away. It is surrounded by a moat and we had our photo taken beside the reflective water. I even climbed the 65 steps to reach the 5 central towers with breathtaking views over the surrounding countryside. On the other side, however, there was the sombre visit to the chilling genocide museum from Pol Pot's time in power.

Shortly we are off overseas again, principally to catch up with our son and his family in London. This is a time to renew our relationship with William 4 years and Lucy 2 years. After that we have a 10 day cruise of the Greek Islands and a few days in Tokyo, returning in September to attend the Wellington Diocesan Synod that week.

On behalf of the Executive I want to thank you all so much for your generous giving and dedicated fundraising to support our Tongan Water Tanks Appeal. The amount raised was \$19,187.43. This is a

President's Notes continued

fantastic achievement and shows your commitment to missions and the people of the Pacific. We will keep you updated as to the timeline for the proposed construction and installation of these tanks.

It will be a new beginning for our new Assistant Bishop Ellie Sanderson as she starts her journey as a new Bishop and I would think one of, if not the youngest, at 40 years old. Her ordination in June was a wonderful occasion as we celebrated this special time in her

spiritual journey.

Another lovely celebration I attended at the end of May was Wellington's Holy Trinity Women's Fellowship 50th birthday with a lovely catered dinner and cake. It was a pleasure to speak to these wonderful committed ladies and to help celebrate this milestone. It was a chance to look back at the journey they had taken and to look ahead. For us AAW members it is hopefully one of new roads to take and places to arrive at.

Last week, we had our initial conference meeting and I give thanks to the enthusiastic group of women who met to plan this. We have some exciting things planned which will be announced later in the year. The Triennial Conference will be held 5th – 8th October 2018. Please mark this on your 2018 calendar.

Please keep in your prayers the Diocese of Waiapu which is in recess until September as they seek a new President and Executive. Hopefully there will be a new beginning here as women put their hands up to lead. We keep



Pat with Assistant Bishop Ellie.

optimistic that Waikato/ Taranaki Diocese will arise as well. We have some wonderful groups of deeply committed members in this diocese and I would encourage them to share what they are doing with us by sending in articles for *Circle*.

*For behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone. The
flowers appear on the earth, the
time of singing has come, and the
voice of the turtledove is heard in
our land.*

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

Forthcoming Dates:

8 October:

2pm - Provincial AAW AGM in the Lady Chapel, Wellington Cathedral of St Paul – afternoon tea in the Brian Davis Room.

5pm - Commissioning Service at the Evensong Service in this Cathedral. There will be a banner procession.

Blessings

Pat

The Rev Tracey Peters of St Margaret's Taihape, was featured on Hyundai Country Calendar earlier this year. The Editorial Team were so impressed they asked me to contact her, and I conducted an interview over the phone. She is a truly remarkable woman.

Tracey, you are described by the Country Calendar programme as a 'former international gold-medallist target shooter' – when and where did you achieve this? And what led you to choosing this activity as your sport?

A neighbour was a member of the local Deer Stalkers' Association, and I was persuaded to join. The association changed my life as it was there I met my husband. One of the Association's activities is target-shooting, and I became involved in that, representing New Zealand Deer Stalkers at the Oceania Competitions in the 1990's.

You are now running a farm single-handedly in the Central Plateau. How did this come about?

I am a farmer's daughter who married a farmer. My husband was 20 years older, and when he died

An Inspirational Shepherd

after 8 years of marriage, he left me the farm. Recently I formed a working partnership with a neighbouring farming couple which has been a great help to me. I do like being my own boss, and love working with my dogs. I have sheep, cattle and a few deer on my farm.

What moved you to become an ordained priest?

In 2000, our local church could not afford a full-time vicar, and we were given the choice of closing, or Mutual Ministry. We chose the latter. At a prayer-ballot everyone put 'Priest' beside my name. I had already done the Education for Ministry course because of my interest in Theology and became ordained. I am an avid reader, I love theology, and I take advantage of every opportunity to keep me up-to-date. Although people had often said I'd make a good priest, I had always said 'No'. I guess God has had the last laugh!

You now have a full life 'tending your flocks'. What other activities are you involved in?

I sing in the local choir, I am a

member of a women's farming club, and I belong to a walking group and a book club.

For every church activity, I like to balance it with an activity outside church.

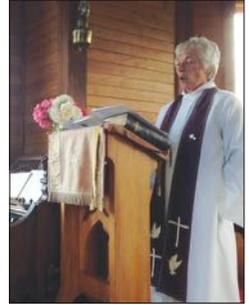
What do you choose to do when you have some leisure or down-time?

I am a good manager of time as I live on my own and have no dependants. I do enjoy sitting in a café drinking coffee, and I love reading and doing crossword puzzles!

So, how do you maintain balance in your life?

They say a change is as good as a holiday, and my work is so varied I feel as though I'm always on holiday! My life is therefore well balanced, keeps me 'grounded' and I love it. I am well connected to the land, farming community and church family; and people can see from me that Christians are not 'way-out or whacky'.

Mary Houston



Did you watch the four-part conversation *What Next?* on the television in June? It was interesting to hear what New Zealanders saw coming in various areas of life and some of the ideas that were being suggested to deal with new issues. Some of the ideas in the section on the economy sounded very like a book I'm reading about the Economy for the Common Good*. The book points out how many countries' constitutions talk about business existing for the common good, despite the widely circulated idea that it is for the profit of the shareholders. I find this a helpful idea: it puts the values we hold for our lives and communities in general at the heart also of business.

Our vision for the future and the pathway to it are so relevant when we have an election coming up. These guide what we are asking ourselves and our candidates. What are the issues we care about the most? What do they say about them? What will lead us towards a society we want to live in?

As an example, after the budget earlier in the year the NZ Council of Christian Social Services looked at that document through the lens of

their two most important questions: Is this a budget that reduces poverty and inequality? Does it improve the well-being of children, families and older people?

What will be your key issues? Key questions?

And have you made sure the young people in your life know how fortunate they are to have a vote and that this is how they can have a say on the future – after all they will live in it more than their older acquaintances. They need to be getting registered (or amending their addresses, if they've moved) now! The respective voting percentages of people their own age and people in retirement age groups would probably startle them!

Some families don't like to discuss politics but it is an area that is rich in possibility for sharing values and ideas and hearing how others are thinking. As long as there is listening as well as talking involved, I can see it providing an arena for significant conversations and an education in the process of democracy.

Happy voting!

Pip Harrison

*Change Everything – *Creating an Economy for the Common Good* by Christian Felber.

Reader's Poem - Peace

Just imagine –
If Jesus offered us His peace
as a fruit ripe for plucking –
And we could hold it
 look at it
 savour it
Before we ate.

Would it be as a snowflake?
Each crystal quite unique
 floating
 falling softly
Its whiteness serenely opaque.

Or as a cloud?
Drifting billows
Reforming in silence
Dispersing vaporous shrouds
Towards eternity.

Just imagine –
a baby's eyes
Deeply timeless
suckling mother's breast.
Freely taking of
Life-giving nurture
Until fully satisfied
And at rest.

'Jesus, I need Your peace within.
How can I live without?'

*'My Child –
Open your heart
Just receive a fruit
from my peace-giving tree.
It grew in a place
Called Gethsemane.'*

*Chris Robertson-Parkes
[Lone Member Waiapu]*

Social Concerns - Having Our Say

Concern about social issues leads us to compassionate action on a number of levels. Sometimes when we see a need, we respond with direct help. Sometimes we work on ways to help people help themselves. Sometimes, though, we see the need for policy change at local or governmental level.

It's been part of our history in AAW to raise our voice to call for changes to improve our society. Often we have done this in company with the National Council of Women (NCW), to which we belong.

We have the opportunity to do this again this year: from time to time Action Items are circulated and our opinions are invited, especially in areas about which we have a special interest or knowledge. We will also get to discuss and vote on remits. Remits form policy for NCW and are part of the basis on which submissions on Bills are written.

This year's remits are now out and you may already have discussed them. They cover a wide brief: The idea of a universal basic income, a mechanism for ensuring a gender balance in Parliament, a provision for education round

relationships and consent in schools, provision for the treating of mental health following a natural disaster and pay equity for women with disabilities. The vote on these will be delivered mid-September at the NCW conference.

If you're interested in framing a remit to be sponsored by AAW, start thinking now for 2018! The process involves working out how a new remit would fit with current NCW policy and, to be within the guidelines provided by NCW, it needs to address aspects of the Council's thrust for a gender equal New Zealand. It could concern one of a number of areas: education and employment, safety and health, economic independence and influence in decision making. A remit needs to have with it an action plan, as to what steps would be taken, if it were accepted and passed. A remit can be sponsored by a Branch of NCW or by a member organisation, such as ourselves.

Because it would need to be voted on by our association, a long lead-in time is necessary. If you have an idea for something that you believe should be addressed by NCW, do please look into it. I'm happy to pass on more information.

A convenient pathway would be to draft such a remit early enough to have it circulated before our own AGM this year, so we could vote on it. If passed there, we would then present it next year. There might be a possibility of getting AAW votes by mail/email but when we are gathered makes debate possible. Remits are due at the NCW office by mid-May. (AAW members are encouraged to belong to NCW. Groups, as well as dioceses or regions, can send representatives to branches and nowadays it's also possible to be an individual member.)

The remit process is obviously a drawn-out one and applicable only to some issues. Sometimes we want to act more immediately or more locally.

It is possible for AAW groups, regions or dioceses to make submissions to councils or health boards on local issues, or to write to other local organisations. Our policy is that anything with the AAW name on it should be run past the President. Involving your Diocesan Social Concerns convenor is a good idea. I have circulated some notes on some issues, such as submitting on liquor licensing

outlets. It's important to look at the framework for submissions and to provide solid reasoning. Obviously we must stay within the Aims of our organisation and we wouldn't want to come across as merely obstructive.

On more national issues we can lobby as AAW NZ, if we know that it is the will of the association. Again, the AGM is a useful place to vote on such a thing with ideas being circulated a couple of months in advance to give groups a chance to discuss the issue.

More immediately, your executive does sometimes write or submit about concerns, so that is a shorter route to action, though doesn't carry the weight of the whole membership in quite the same way.

These, then, are some of the methods by which our voices as a group may be heard. Also, of course, our opinions can feed into society's discussions within our families and social circles, on facebook and other social media and wherever people talk with each other.

May the voice of the Kingdom
be heard in our land!

Pip Harrison

Nothing is so Beautiful as Spring

One of my favourite writers is Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit priest, teacher, and innovative poet, who lived in England 1844-89. He sums up the beauty of spring in his sonnet, *Spring*, published posthumously in the Poems collection of 1918.

I love this poem, not just for its technical skill and use of language that compresses into a few words an intensity of meaning. Note that the poem is written to be read aloud, for the sounds and rhythms carry as much meaning as do the words.

I also love it because the octave takes me on a walk, through the countryside in springtime. The long, lovely and lush weeds, the sky-blue bird's eggs cupped in their

nest, the sounds of the thrush's song, the fruit blossoms against the sky, trace our path from farm buildings through a glade of trees and the orchard, till we come to the open paddocks where lambs race. The energy, sounds and colours are so beautifully captured. Hopkins then reflects in the last six lines on how this must have been what the Garden of Eden was like before Eve and Adam ate of the apple of knowledge; we should have, get, grasp the joy of spring before it sullies.

And sully it does. Too soon the gold-green of new shoots and delicacy of blossoms dry out and toughen as summer sets in; and lambs lose their friskiness and become dour sheep. Thus we should heed Hopkins and embrace the energy of spring. It is actually a season much shorter than its allocated three months, so 'Carpe Diem', let us seize each day of spring and allow its energy and spirit of new life to regenerate us. Enjoy!

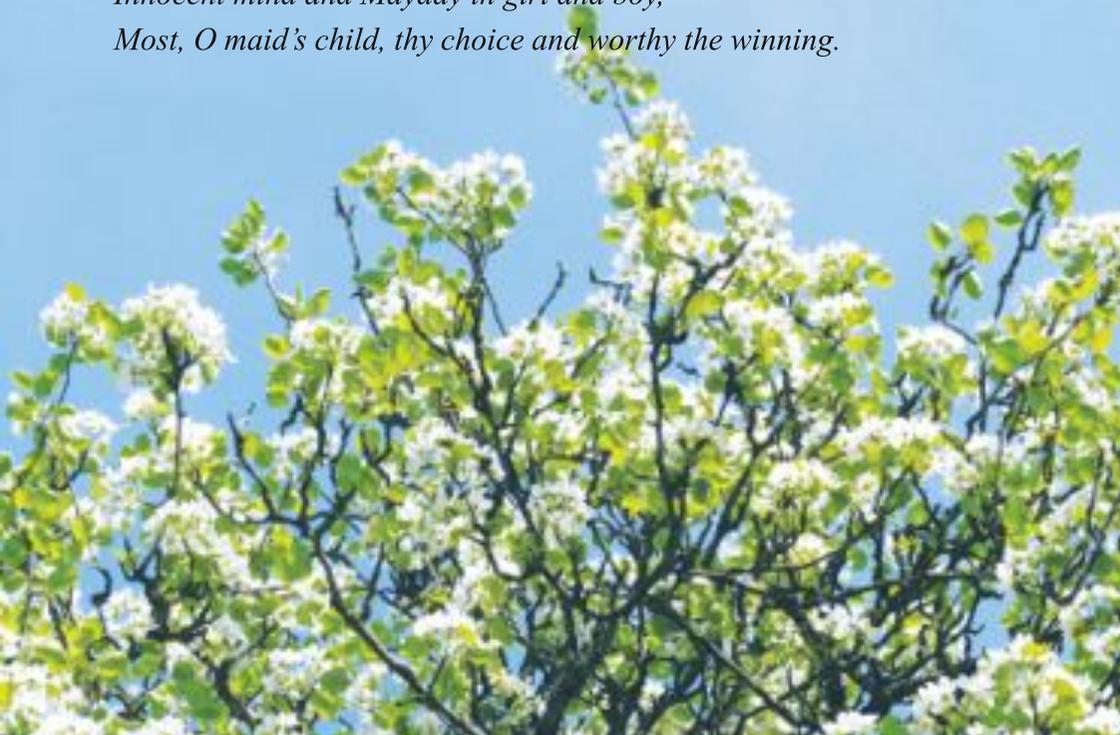
Mary Houston



Spring

*Nothing is so beautiful as Spring -
When weeds in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.*



Overseas and Outreach

Greetings to all members.

The days are getting longer, and it's good to know that spring is just around the corner. Change is in the air, and in this edition the focus will be on our own beautiful country and some of the good changes that are happening in it.

I have had three interesting and informative letters from Rev Colin Price, Minister of Amuri Co-operating Parish; Rev Kevin Topp of St Peters Kaikoura; and Rev Dawn Daunauda, of Awatere Christian Joint Venture Church which includes Seddon and Ward. They wrote letters in response to our \$1,000 donation to each parish from the Emergency Fund following the November earthquake.

Amuri

Rev Colin Price writes: "Our Parish has experienced considerable challenges since the November 14th earthquake. Our Culverden church was already closed due to it being less than the 34% of the National Building

Standard requirement for Presbyterian owned buildings. The Waiiau All Saints Church has been severely damaged and is not salvageable unless we were to find in excess of \$1.2 million.



Waiiau All Saints Church

This leaves us with one useable church, St Mary's at Rotherham which is located 13 km from Culverden and 10 km from Waiiau. This is a blessing in a sizeable rural parish as its central location is helpful as we seek to meet and be encouraged as one people in one centre. In terms of mission we are an ageing congregation and we had no children's programme operating in Rotherham.

Recognising that without such a programme, parents of children are less likely to come, we have made

Overseas and Outreach - continued

it a priority to implement and resource. Conversations with women of the parish who are finding it difficult to bring their children along and receive a Christian education confirmed this was an obvious way of promoting the welfare of not only the families and children of church families but also the wider community.

We have spent about two-thirds of the AAW gift on resources. Something that particularly excites us is the quality of the programme we have purchased from Sparkhouse in the USA. The strength of this programme is that it is individualised and uses teacher input and DVD illustrations, along with learner sheets. There are separate and age appropriate programmes for different ages and it was noticeable on Sunday that the children were continuing their activities in the hall, while the adults were enjoying morning tea. It was a joy to see the children engaged in activity and there was much thankfulness to God on the part of the adults in witnessing children learning.

We would appreciate your prayers for the programme to be a foundational blessing for the children and their families. We are holding the remainder of monies for ordering additional resources as required.

The Waiau area has suffered and in the words of a Parish council member, will take two years to get back to where they were financially. It is gratifying to see a number of agencies assisting in meeting human need. The Christchurch Diocese generously channelled donations our way and these have been used to assist parents with school related expenses and assist other families in need.

One silver cloud in the lining has been our parish's ability to contribute to the welfare of the community by selling a Presbyterian owned section in Waiau to the Hurunui District Council to provide housing for those living in compromised housing and caravans. The local council has purchased surplus housing from one of the Christchurch earthquake villages

Overseas and Outreach - continued

and will install them on the large section before winter really bites. Parishioners have long hoped to see the land used for the good of the community and now this is coming to pass.

Thank you once again for your concern and your generosity. In our services, we have been studying Paul's letter to the Philippian church and your generosity and prayers remind us of that wonderful and generous Christian community in Philippi. Your prayers for our Parish as we negotiate the challenges ahead are very much appreciated."

Kaikoura

Rev Kevin Topp writes: We were delighted to receive your very kind gift of \$1,000; many, many thanks. Some of this money was used immediately for a young mother who needed funds for a bond on new accommodation

after her house was quake-damaged. She was so thankful that people were prepared to help her in her time of need.

After the quake there was great concern for the welfare of the older people of our parish. They were eventually either flown or shipped out on one of the 6 frigates anchored in the bay. When food and essential services were restored to the town and life returned to some sort of normality, these evacuees returned to Kaikoura. A lunch was held in a country home for anyone who wanted to share their experiences. It was important to get away somewhere peaceful to share their joys and sorrows amongst friends.



St Peter's lunch. Pat Bradshaw, Jeanette Thornton & Joy Woodgate leaders of the previous Kaikoura AAW. (1st, 2nd and 4th left).

Overseas and Outreach - continued

A week after the quake we had a wonderful experience of the Churches & Community Service held in Churchill Park in front of the Kaikoura Hospital. This service was attended by 400-500 people of all ages. This was a good start to the healing that must happen after such a huge event that the Kaikoura people experienced. God's spirit was there amongst us and has continued to be with us as we experience further shakes and the frustration of sometimes being completely cut off from the rest of the country. To date State Highway 1 is still completely closed to the north which is hard on the Kaikoura business community.

The Old Kaikoura Convent has for the last 9 years been used for accommodation and the teaching of Christian University students and leaders mainly from USA and Canada. They are undertaking a Creation Care Study Programme. A miracle occurred on the night of the quake. The 20 residents were evacuated in the dark, with windows and stairways breaking about them, along with the constant



The Old Convent Kaikoura after 14/11/16 earthquake.

shaking. Few injuries were received. Shortly after the evacuation a chimney fell on one of the leaders' beds. God had his hand on them. The students were all very appreciative of the gifts of food and essential necessities given to them before they were shipped out.

Immediately after the quake, help poured into Kaikoura in many ways so we did not use all the funds you gave us straight away. We are now looking to use the rest of the money for such things as school fees, books and other uses we think you would be happy with.

Thank you once again. People have appreciated being remembered at this difficult time. May the Lord bless you as you remember others.

Overseas and Outreach - continued

Awatere

Rev Dawn Daunauda writes, “On December 23rd AAW donated \$1000 towards earthquake relief following the November 2016 quakes. I have been listening and looking for useful ways to spend the emergency money (not always easy as individuals always think everybody else’s problems are greater) and have settled on contributing towards outstanding fees at the Awatere Early Learning Centre (AELC).

It has been noted that parents of young children have struggled with the quakes and ongoing aftershocks. They are seen as being most vulnerable and in need of various types of support.

The Early Learning Centre currently lists 45 families and 57 children. As the AELC AGM it was noted that several families were unlikely to be paid. Nevertheless, the AELC Board of Trustees resolved to keep the children at the Centre as both children and parents/caregivers needed stress-free time out. Currently there is more than \$3000 in outstanding fees which also poses challenges for

those trying to balance the books in order to keep the Centre running! Your donation will go some way towards helping.”

Edgecumbe Floods

\$1000 from the Emergency Fund has been allocated for the needs of flood victims in Edgecumbe/Bay of Plenty area. This donation will be given towards the costs of ‘Stormbirds’, a programme of Growing Through Grief which will be run in Edgecumbe schools for children who have been particularly traumatised by the Edgecumbe flood. This programme has been used successfully in Christchurch and Kaikoura after the earthquakes. Please continue praying for our Mission Partners.

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7

Shelley Vette

*AAW Overseas and Outreach
Convenor*

NZ Army Laundry Bags

A hand written letter of thanks was received from soldiers deployed overseas for the Kiwiana Laundry Bags. Several photos were included with the faces blurred for operational security. The soldiers expressed their appreciation to us and the Papanui RSA for making the laundry bags and were thrilled to receive them while they were based overseas.

Here is a comment from the letter I received.

'Often I am confronted by people asking "where can we get them from?" and how wonderful and bright they are, so you can be proud of your thoughtfulness and efforts as we sure are!!'

AAW Diocesan Banner has a new home

The Diocesan AAW Banner, dedicated in 1989, designed by Ruth Helps and made by Anne Denys, depicts Canterbury, home of many AAW members. Bishop Allan Pyatt turned the shaft from

South Island Beech.

Our Diocesan AAW Banner was rescued from the Christ Church Cathedral in the Square on 21 September, 2011. The lower part of the shaft, remains in the damaged Cathedral, so we have had a replacement shaft made for the banner.

For a short time the banner was kept in the Christ Church Transitional Cathedral, but it was in the way when the Cathedral had to be cleared for functions, so I was asked to find a new home for it.

After six years, St Barnabas Church, Fendalton, having had the earthquake damages repaired, was re-opened by Bishop Victoria Matthews on 19 February, 2017.

The Fendalton Parish has two active AAW groups so I asked the Vicar, Revd Mark Chamberlain if we could keep the Diocesan AAW Banner in the Church, and he agreed.

Judith Mackenzie

*Diocese of Christchurch
President*

Diocesan News - Auckland

On Sunday 12th March 2017 the Auckland AAW held our AGM in the Selwyn Library .

Auckland was in the midst of the worst rain downpours for many years but there were many attendees and ones who braved the weather bomb and came from as far as Warkworth in the north.

We were honoured to have Bishop Ross chair the meeting and in his opening prayer he made special mention of those in Auckland urban areas experiencing unheard-of flooding. Nobody can say we have boring AGM's. The business reports and discussion went smoothly. At the conclusion of the meeting Bishop Ross commissioned our President and Committee Members for the next year.

If you didn't attend you missed a wonderful address from Bishop



From left to right: Barbara Dixon (President), Bishop Ross Bay, Natalie Taplin (Secretary), Margaret Heath (Treasurer), Revd Jeny Terrell (NCW Rep), Julie Walker (Social Concerns/NCW), Robyn Bridgman (ATWC), Eileen Gribble (Liaison)

Ross. He spoke of the high points of his year as Bishop of Auckland; some of these included his visit to the UK where they visited Lichfield Cathedral and maintained the relationship between the two Dioceses. Bishop Selwyn first Bishop of Aotearoa, on his return to England, became Bishop of Lichfield. Bishop Selwyn is buried in a chapel in Lichfield Cathedral.

While in the UK, Bishop Ross presented Archdeacon Jo (former Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral,

Auckland) to the Bishop of Dover. He was also there to support in the Installation of Jo Kelly-Moore, as Archdeacon of Canterbury in the Church of England. He spoke of the ecumenical discussion continuing between Canterbury and Rome and his informal meetings with the Auckland Roman Catholic Bishop Pat Dunn.

Bishop Ross concluded his always informative and interesting address by stating he enjoys the opportunity of chatting informally to a group such as AAW and this continued over afternoon-tea served by St Aidan's Remuera.

Members thanked him for his continued presence at AGMs over recent years. Bishop Ross is nearing his 7th anniversary as Bishop of Auckland Diocese.

Some AAW members then attended the Commonwealth Day evening service at the Cathedral. We were invited to parade our banners. This was a fitting end to a great day. We look forward to our next AGM and not many can say that!

St James Ladies Fellowship

The St James Ladies Fellowship decided to take their group into the community last month. Prior to our meeting we met at a café in Mangere Village for a late breakfast. In spite of the horrible weather 6 members attended. It was decided that we should do it again and possibly make it a dinner some time so that those who are unable to meet during the day could join us.



In the photo left to right: Beverley, Kaye, Barbara, Dawn, Jean, Jenny

Nelson Diocese Executive Meeting

This event took place at Tea Pot Valley Camp. It was not only a time for the members of the Executive to meet, but also for them to connect with members of the neighbouring areas including Blenheim, Picton, Mawhera, Cobden-Runanga, Greymouth and Buller.

Proceedings commenced on the Thursday afternoon with an address by our guest speaker Archdeacon Tim Mora on his recent trip to Israel, Jordan and Jerusalem. (For a report on this trip see page 32.)

On Friday morning a “Silent Communion” was held with the words available via a Powerpoint display. Those who attended felt it was a very spiritual time.

This was followed by the business side of the weekend with the topic discussed being: - “The future of AAW.” How do we encourage new membership?

It was agreed that the AAW in the Nelson Diocese is very strong and still contributing to our respective churches and communities. The younger

generation of women in our community are either caring for children or in the work force. This means they are not as free and able to join AAW at present. It was considered that when they had more time they will start up a new group that is tailored to their needs and their communities' requirements.

Madeline Mcrae

AAW AGM and Festival in Motueka June 2017

The Nelson Diocese held its AGM and Festival in Motueka with over 60 women attending. Thursday night was buzzing with chatter over dinner, after which the competition was held for the Audrey Landels Rosebowl. The theme was “Growing in Dreams” and five groups put on skits that they had written themselves. The winners were Holy Trinity Richmond.

Next morning Archdeacon Tim Mora, the Vicar General, chaired the AGM. The guest speaker was Pip Harrison, the NZ Provincial Social Concerns Convenor. She



Presentation of the skits at AGM social night dinner The Judges are at the left of the photo, and Tim Mora at the right .

spoke about herself and her life and challenged everyone to think about social issues and what would make God sad; also what our dreams would be. The discussion was lively with many and varied answers.

After lunch, a communion and commissioning service was held when Archdeacon Tim Mora spoke about the wonderful history of AAW and that it was important to find a way forward.

Waimea

Because Nelson is focussing this year on the second AAW Aim, "To Promote, Safeguard and Nurture Christian Family Life", Waimea

Women's Fellowship heard an interesting talk by Carolyn Marshall who is a social worker attached to two low decile schools in Nelson.

They heard of the challenges faced by families with high unemployment, health issues, learning disabilities, excluded children, language barriers with refugee families, dysfunctional

families and foster families. It was very enlightening.

The Nelson -Waimea Regional Day was held at Holy Trinity Richmond. After morning tea Holy Communion was celebrated by Rev Susan Gill. Patsy Hawke then entertained everyone with a delightful talk about her life, meeting and marrying Mike, the new Dean of the Cathedral. She spoke of their training at St John's College, the people they met there who are now in the Diocese, her teaching, their mission life and now their work at Nelson Cathedral. Her message was having Faith with Hope.

Diane Higgins

Dunedin

In May, St John's Roslyn Evening Group invited other groups from Dunedin to come and share in an 'Images of the Past' Fashion Parade. We had a good number present to watch this group of ladies parade up and down the hall. They had made all the wonderful costumes themselves.

At the end of the parade the audience were able to ask many questions about their costumes. They are quite happy to do these parades and all they ask for is donations for them to buy book vouchers for the



Children's Ward at the Public Hospital.

Margaret McInachan



Oamaru

On Shrove Tuesday, St Lukes AAW members put on a Pancake Party for the Parish which proved a success and there was much hilarity over the pancake races held outside.



**Pancake Party
Photos by
David Sutton**



**Seniors Lunch
Photos by Beryl
Miller**

In June, St Luke's AAW organised a lunch for our senior parishioners following a communion service taken by our Vicar, Andrea McDougall.

There was a pleasing turn out on a warm sunny morning with 30 parishioners attending. Transport was provided for those who needed it and those from the local rest homes, in particular, enjoyed meeting up with friends from the Parish.

Nonie Rooney, Oamaru



Oroua – Fielding

At St John's Women's Fellowship we are half way through the year and our group has been very busy meeting and enjoying the wonderful fellowship we have.

We started the year with our new Priest Assistant Rev. Sarah McMenamin with husband Jo and their three children Theo, Luke and Beth, sharing their journey. The Rev. Sarah spoke later in the year at the Northern Regional AGM about how God guided her to be ordained.

At the next meeting Archdeacon Wendy Scott led a discussion on our future goals. May saw us watching the violinist Andre Rieu's Christmas DVD on the church screen. In June we had an informative demonstration by Sue Jex on soft cheese making which we sampled on Marguerita pizzas.

Various members had a couple of trips away, the first being to the annual St Margaret's Taihape Mission Day, and the other to AAW AGM at St Paul's Kapiti.

Small hospitality jobs we were involved in included an 'over ninety's' afternoon tea and a birthday lunch and baking for Rev. Eleanor Sanderson's ordination and installation as Assistant Bishop.

Our 10th August meeting Overseas / Mission day starts 10am with a talk from our guest speaker Nancy Goodwin, followed by a Eucharist service and fellowship lunch.

It was with great sadness that we recently lost a dear member, Merle Vaughan. Merle was always full of enthusiasm and laughter. She was a great poetry writer with many of her little booklets sold and the proceeds generously donated to AAW overseas missions.

Here is one of her prayers:

My Prayer – by Merle Vaughan

Bless my little house, O Lord

And help me every day

To dwell within with hope

And faith and cheerfulness

I pray.

Help me talk of happy things

And sing a glad refrain

*Then all who visit in my house
Will want to come again.
Help me count my blessings
Lord and not my aches and
pains.
From my house take fear and
woe
So only love remains.*

Taihape - Visit to St Margaret's

Most travellers passing through Taihape could be forgiven for thinking here is another sleepy little town. But no, out there in 'them thar hills' a lot is going on and not just a few sheep and cattle.

St Margaret's AAW each year host an Ecumenical and Northern Region Mission Day. The calibre of the speakers is very high and many have been business people whose contribution to the economy is significant.

This year the Guest Speaker was Diana Beard who works with her husband on a 1200 acre farm which includes approximately 20 acres of orchards: peaches, apricots and plums. In a sheltered micro climate they are able to produce and meet a

niche market as other growers' fruit has come to an end. The brand name is Diana's Fruit.

Diana trained as a Computer Technician some years ago, and while at a Scripture Union Camp in the Marlborough Sounds met, and later married a farmer from Taihape. Besides growing fruit, they shepherd Drysdale sheep which has led to a new level in business management, helped along by a recently acquired degree in that area.

Through her interest in orcharding, growing Drysdale wool and study, opportunities have presented themselves – positions on various boards and a part time lecturing position at Massey University, Manawatu.

Diana has also been on an exciting trip to Kansas and North Carolina, during which they visited a carpet manufacturing company and saw their wool blended to make carpets. An inspirational woman.

Another guest again this year was much loved former school teacher - Mrs Margaret Terrill, who has recently turned 97 and is a



**Rev'd Dawn Illston and
Margaret Terrill**

member of St Peter's Palmerston North AAW. She also enjoyed meeting with Rev'd Dawn Illston who conducted the Service prior to lunch.

A great day not to be missed; a day high on the AAW Calendar in this area.

*Elizabeth Heath,
Co-ordinator, Oroua*

50th Birthday Celebrations

On the evening of the 25th May, the Holy Trinity Women's Fellowship celebrated their 50th birthday. The group became affiliated to the AAW soon after its inception.

The catered-for dinner in the church hall was a great success. The national Leader, Pat Vincent attended and spoke to the members, congratulating the group on its longevity. Mary Escourt, Belmont Archdeaconry Leader, was also present; and apologies were received from the Wellington Diocesan Leader, the Rev Sandy Williams.

The two longest-standing members, Val Stannard (left) and Maude Tregarthen, cut the birthday cake.



Mothers' Union Celebrations at Church of the Epiphany, Masterton

I had a wonderful day with the Epiphany members in Masterton in early July. I presented a 50 year badge to Margaret, here in the photo with a beautiful bouquet, with Cheryl Hansen their leader. We celebrated with a meaningful service in church then shared fellowship and soup and rolls. The lady who presented the bouquet mentioned that most of the MU members are also involved with Rural Women.

The Epiphany members are considering sponsoring an AFIA (An Away From It All) holiday.

Heather Dawson



Johnsonville

In July a small group of AAW members and friends went along to see the He Tohu (referring to the 'signs' or signatures on the documents) exhibition at the National Library. It consists of 3 founding documents for New Zealand. The precious original documents - He Whakaputanga - the Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand, Te Tiriti o Waitangi - The Treaty of Waitangi and the Women's Suffrage Petition are housed in state-of-the-art cases in a specially and beautifully-constructed wooden conservation space (see <https://natlib.govt.nz/he-tohu>). Just nearby was a statue of Kate Sheppard constructed in translucent plastic on a 3D printer (see photo).



Bucket List Pilgrimage

Bucket lists are great ways of making sure you do the things you want to do with your life.

In 2016, I had the privilege of ticking off three items on my bucket list. I visited the ancient city of Petra, went to Gallipoli and was part of a pilgrimage around Jordan, Israel and Turkey visiting many ancient sites associated with the Biblical story.

I went firstly because I love history and Petra has always been a place that epitomises the ancient past. Secondly, because ANZAC is such a significant part of our New Zealand identity, I wanted to go and honour the lives of those who died there. And lastly, because I have been a Christian for 37 years I have lived, breathed and preached the Biblical story for most of that time.

The trip was organised and led by Mike Hawke, new Dean of Nelson Cathedral. Mike's main passion for the trip was that it be a spiritual journey as much as a visit to a lot of historical sites. And so, each day included prayer, Bible readings relevant to the sites,

communion at the garden tomb and evening discussion and singing.

We packed a lot in over the time. We began in Jordan with a short stay at a Dead Sea hotel and the obligatory swim/float before moving on to visit places like Mt. Nebo from where Moses had his only glimpse of the promised land. Then to Madaba, with the oldest pictorial map of the Holy Land in existence; and the ancient Nabatean kingdom of Petra, an amazing city carved almost entirely out of sandstone canyon walls.

From Jordan we crossed into Israel and made our way north to the old city of Jerusalem staying at the Austrian Hospice.

In Jerusalem, we visited all the main sites including Bethlehem and walked the Via Dolorosa from where Jesus was condemned by Pilate to where he was crucified. We then travelled to Galilee visiting Capernaum, Nazareth, Cana and the Mount of Beatitudes before flying to Turkey where we went to Gallipoli and visited all the sites of the seven churches of Revelation.

Bucket List Pilgrimage - continued



Chapel over the site of Mary's house. The tour group inside the church. Tim Mora is 2nd from the left.

Many places moved me: others I thought would do, did not. The Holy Sepulchre Church built over the site of the crucifixion and burial of Christ with all its ornamentation was underwhelming. It felt like they were worshipping the site more than the person of Christ and what was accomplished there.

In contrast, I was in tears at Bethany where we read from John's gospel at the tomb of Lazarus which looks as it would have 2000 years ago. Sitting on a boat out on Lake Galilee was also

moving as I surveyed the shoreline along which Jesus would have walked and the many towns he would have visited. This was his home turf. Ephesus was also impacting as we stood in the very theatre where Demetrius the silversmith from Acts 19 incited his riot against Paul.

One of the last places we visited was the site where Mary the mother of Jesus spent her last years. A chapel stands over the house site and we drank from the spring that Mary would have used for washing and drinking.

All in all, it was a wonderful time and made all the more so because of Mike's passion to see all of us grow spiritually from the time.

Archdeacon Tim Mora

Diocesan News - Polynesia

AAW Pasifika have been busy with their Parochial/Unit activities. Most of them are their monthly prayer and meetings, cleaning and flowers for the church, helping in the church choir, Sunday school and in the lay ministry.

The annual event of the World Day of Prayer was again observed this year in March. The women were also involved in church prayer meetings, cultural and traditional presentations, and families went to the palace on the occasion of the passing away of Her Late Majesty Queen Mata'aho of Tonga.

The women were also 50% represented in the Diocesan Synod in May and the President made a presentation to Synod with some of the women with her at the front. Synod was held in Suva Fiji.

Rev Lola Koloamatangi



**Water Tanks Total for Tonga is
\$19187.43**



Mothers' Union

The newly-elected NZ Provincial President of Mothers' Union is Joan Neild from

Auckland. She was previously the President of the Auckland Diocese Mothers' Union.

Recipe - Warm Spring Lamb Salad

1 bunch of asparagus
500 gms pumpkin, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
150 gms fresh walnuts
150 gms creamy feta cheese
2 or 3 lamb leg steaks cut into thin strips
2 cups baby spinach leaves
Sprig of fresh rosemary
Sea salt and black pepper
3 tbspn walnut, sesame or olive oil
3 tbspn red wine vinegar



Cook asparagus – drain and cool.

Toss pumpkin, chopped rosemary, sea salt and pepper in a little olive oil and roast on a shallow oven dish till just tender.

Spread spinach on a large platter. Add asparagus, pumpkin, walnuts and crumbed feta.

Lightly season lamb strips and toss in a little olive oil and stir fry until just cooked and still pink then scatter over the rest of the salad.

Shake walnut (sesame or olive) oil and red wine vinegar in a screw top jar then drizzle over salad.

Serve with crusty fresh bread or garlic bread.

Beef strips or smoked chicken can be used instead of lamb. It is also nice with some grilled bacon.

Recipe supplied by Kirsty Provan, AAW Waikanae.

