

CIRCLE



The Association of
Anglican Women
Volume 45, No 1
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Serving the Community
Stories on pages 3-6 and 8



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COVER PICTURES. Front: *Selwyn Centre clients & mainly music at Whangaparaoa; Fireman Bishop Ross; Firetruck; Whangarei Anglican Care Centre; Hospital chaplain and patient; Peace window: Auckland Cathedral; Granger Grove: a mother at AAW dinner; AAW volunteers: Selwyn Centre; The Auckland City Mission.* Back: *The Auckland 'Square'.*

CONTRIBUTIONS - Diocesan AAW Group & 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.

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From Our President . . .

Elizabeth Crawley



My New Year Greetings to you all.

I hope you truly enjoyed all the blessings of the Christmas season!

Just after Christmas I heard about a group who took the theme "Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without" for their end of year meeting. At first, this seemed to be a simple question, but members found it actually took them on a journey of discovery with lots of thought.

As we begin in 2013, it seems to me that taking the theme "AAW wouldn't be AAW without" would be a great way to focus on what we appreciate about AAW, what makes it important in our lives, what makes us survive, and what keeps us searching for ways to attract other women, to be part of our organisation, so that they will in time also, have lots of answers to contribute, as we look at valuing what we have.

Looking back on 2012, we may reflect on the highlights of special events, such as our Conference in Napier, which gave us the opportunity to meet up together again.

The start of 2013 brings the celebrations of AAW Sunday in February - or when it suits your Parish. In March there is the World Day of Prayer and Lady Day.

My greatest hope is that the values and beliefs of AAW continue to underpin all we do, and that all groups have a New Year resolution to increase membership, and this will include taking *Circle*.

Best wishes to all undertaking leadership roles in the coming year.

Elizabeth

Anglican women meeting united in prayer fellowship and family care serving Friendship Anglican women inviting and hospitable to everyone who comes, whanau



AAW - our aims

1. To unite in prayer and participate in the Mission of the Church.
2. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.



Who drives this little red fire truck?

By Lady Rhyl Jansen with Bishop Ross Bay

“The Auckland Operational Support Unit of the Fire Service” was founded in 1933 after two fires raged in central Auckland on the same night on 16 February 1931– one in Partington’s Windmill in Karangahape Rd and a larger fire at the Northern Boot Company in Federal Street”. *(From their website)*

This is a volunteer group of both men and women who receive no recompense for their work other than camaraderie and a sense of satisfaction at completing the needed tasks. Career personnel of the Fire Service actually fight the fires and undertake rescue work while the Operational Support volunteers (all in other full time employment) provide any support needed with a special focus on scene safety.

As they focus on public safety the members attending may be required for traffic control, setting up lighting or to serve drinks and meals from the special catering vehicle. They are all trained in the variety of their duties and hold a First Aid Certificate.

When the driver of this red fire truck (it is a half size truck) is on call he/she takes it home and parks it in his driveway for the night so that he can respond quickly to the pager which alerts him/ her that they are needed to go quickly

to where assistance is required. The unit may be required briefly or for several hours and with possible multiple call-outs in one night.

The area covered is from Albany in the north to Drury in the south and from Whitford in the east to Whenuapai in the west.

On the night this photo was taken, the driver of the little red truck was Senior Service Officer Ross Bay, a volunteer operational support member for 22 years in the Auckland Unit. But he is better known to Anglicans as the Right Reverend Ross Bay, Bishop of Auckland.

Bishop Ross attended two call-outs that night, one for a short time in the early evening to a fallen tree in the City. The second call was to Waterview and lasted from 1.30 am to 6.10 am with fire crews and police following a fatal hit and run traffic incident.



Experiencing the glamour on a cold, wet, windy night!

He spent the time on traffic duty with a colleague who quoted poetry among other subjects as there was little traffic around. On his arrival home he was able to have a couple of hours sleep and then had a full day of meetings. Not a yawn was in sight during the interview!

As the procession left the Cathedral during the Anglican Consultative Council’s final service, Bishop Ross saw smoke billowing from the roof of the kitchen area. Quickly divesting himself of his robes, he hurried down the stairs only to find that the fire was in the rubbish tins outside and that fire officers were attending to it already. All was well.

Members of the Support Unit offer themselves for suitable dates which do not interfere with their own work and Bishop Ross has attended 60 calls this year, mostly while the rest of us are asleep.

Asked why he chooses this particular voluntary service Ross said, “I have made a huge number of friends in the emergency services and continue to enjoy their camaraderie and the fulfilment that comes from serving the Auckland community in this way.”



Dear Readers

For this issue of *Circle*, the Auckland Diocesan AAW Executive has submitted just a few ways in which we may be part of the voluntary service which is contributed within the Community. I should also like to acknowledge the Auckland City Mission, the Whangarei Anglican CARE Centre, Te Whare Ruru hau o Meri (Anglican Maori Social Services) based in Kaitia and South Auckland, hospices in the region, and other community organisations in which so many people serve. *Lady Rhyl Jansen, Auckland AAW Diocesan President.*



The two fixed requirements for *mainly music* are: The programme must be part of a church of any denomination - and all the helpers must be volunteers.

mainly music first began in 1990 in Hillsborough, Auckland and has now gone international with groups in Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the USA. There are many groups throughout Auckland.

Not familiar with *mainly music*? This is a fun music group for children, a time for their mothers/carers/grandparents/foster-carers to enjoy together.

During the morning the children develop language, imagination, mathematical and pre-reading skills as well as learning to socialise with others.



The *mainly music* group at St Stephen's, Whangaparaoa was established eleven years ago and for the past five years has been led by Gill Henderson. There are two *mainly music* groups at St Stephen's and both are extremely popular.

Held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings starting at 9.30 am, there are eighty seven children on the roll and each group allows for 45 plus mums per session. There is often a waiting list which proves its popularity. Most of the children range in ages from one – three years old, very much in the formative age bracket.

Everyone is very active with singing, dancing, clapping, chatting and laughing. After the morning tea break, some of the children and mums split up.

The children stay put and are looked after by the volunteer helpers, whilst their mums adjourn to another room for 'mainly mums' where they either study or do art and craft work. They are studying *The Five Love Languages* written by Dr. Gary Chapman, an American contemporary Christian.



Several members of AAW are involved with *mainly music* at St Stephen's and elsewhere in our diocese - their contribution is appreciated.

The good news is that *mainly music* needs more volunteers everywhere: If you would like to be involved with this amazing and wonderful programme, please contact your local *mainly music* leader.

With the young - and the aged - AAW Volunteers

The Selwyn Centres

The first of the Selwyn Centres began over a decade ago through the creative use of an unused, re-furnished house within the grounds of Selwyn Oaks Retirement Village at Papakura, South Auckland.

Working with a committee from the Papakura parish, a lively and appealing programme was devised. It comprises social games, gentle exercises, morning tea and occasional outings for socially isolated elderly in the local community. Beginning with Papatoetoe, neighbouring parishes caught on to the idea. Now there are over 30 Selwyn Centres operating on church premises in Northland, Greater Auckland and Thames.

The Centres are there for people over 65 of any religious or cultural background who may live alone or may be in need of friendship, help and support. More than six hundred older adults of varying levels of independence and mobility currently attend one of them weekly.

The Selwyn Foundation provides training and part-funding. With the efforts of volunteers, including AAW members, the Centres are operated by the ministry units concerned as a way of community outreach. The Foundation is the Anglican Church's provider of aged care within its residential villages in the Auckland Diocese as well as at Hamilton and Cambridge in the Waikato.

To discover more, visit www.selwyncare.org.nz



A day in the life of a Selwyn Centre - a community effort involving AAW volunteers

BUT - Perhaps a more fitting title to this story should have been 'A SPECIAL day in the life of this Selwyn Centre', for Circle's photographer called to find St Stephen's buzzing with interest and life, this being the final session for year 2012. Today's session was being conducted by deputy Pauline Morgan, since Coordinator Jill McTeigue is to arrive later, shepherding some very special guests.

First things first. Time is taken at the beginning for welcoming, a chat and catching up with friends. Then come today's exercises which although designed to keep body and mind active, are far from being somewhat of a chore in the minds of all those present. The pictures tell the story!

Volunteers and 'customers' alike were highly enthusiastic in their comments about the centre and what it achieves for them. Margaret Heath reflected, 'I love the fellowship and comradeship I find here, and getting to know new people among our clients and our fellow workers. I was astounded to find how astute are so many of the people I have met here.'

AAW volunteer Janice Cooper enjoys seeing people come week after week. "It is rewarding to see formerly lonely and even withdrawn people 'thawing out' and beginning to blossom. Already these new friendships go beyond the Centre and into the community beyond." Silvia Gudsell described this as "people being outgoing, becoming metamorphosed into new life and comfortable about talking over their past life."

Morning tea served by the AAW ladies - a happy and noisy time. To your reporter, client Peter confided: "We need more men here please. We need to feed off each other to keep mind and body active!"

The entertainers arrive

Coordinator Jill McTeigue is also a school teacher, and it is her Year 3 Choir which now arrives to fascinate their senior audience with singing, drama, and the playing of musical instruments. Afterwards, the children move around and many are the animated conversations throughout the hall. Wonderful!



“Listening to life stories”

— North Shore Hospital Chaplain Hilary Leith's Story —

I began my chaplaincy on 9 January 2012, before which I was an assistant Priest in a parish. In theory, I knew hospital chaplaincy was very different from being in a parish, but theory and practice are two very different things - and I was not so prepared for the differences.

Two huge challenges I have had to overcome: Firstly, having to wait for the patients or staff to ask for prayer. The reason for this is that they may be from different faiths or have no faith at all. Secondly, having no follow up with a patient once they are discharged.

I came to realise that these were my problems and not those of the patients. I learned that the most important thing for the patient was the ‘here and now’ - and that which happens during our encounter.

Chaplains minister to all hospital staff, paid and voluntary, as well as to the patients. A chaplain is available in the hospital 24/7. I am on call every third week.

During the week on call, the Chaplain also takes the Sunday chapel service.

Although there is some routine in my day, I never quite know what it will bring. I carry a pager and when this goes off, I could be called to be with a dying patient, a patient with a serious condition, the parents of a still-born baby, being asked to bless a room after a death, to witness a will before a patient has an operation, to visit a grieving family. In fact any situation that requires a chaplain.

A listening ministry

Chaplaincy is to do with listening to life stories and being there to bring comfort and peace in a crisis.

When people feel that they are heard, they feel received, accepted, more calm, strengthened, relieved, released, bonded with the listener, cared for, less alone and they experience a time of intimacy.

Being a chaplain is a great privilege and an honour. To be invited into someone's life when they are at their most vulnerable is extremely humbling.

Chaplains are there to show God's grace to all. People are treated equally regardless of religion, faith, gender or race.

I thank God for giving me the privilege of serving as a chaplain.



Evaluation of the 19th Triennial Conference 2012

The conference team thanks all who submitted their conference evaluation form.

We received many positive comments about the food and quality of the speakers. Most participants enjoyed their chosen workshops with enthusiastic comments about Stephen Brooker's workshop on *Circle* and Catharine White's flax artistry sessions. The few negative comments were from people who were unable to go to their chosen workshops. So many late registrations made this task very difficult.

The team became conscious that some found going up and down stairs between venues difficult; this obviously will be a factor for future conferences. It was for this reason we asked if people would be prepared to pay more for motel accommodation. Interestingly, two-thirds of members were prepared to pay the extra for a motel, but others felt we would lose the fellowship if we were not all under the same roof.

We received a number of negative comments about the sound system and that we should have “trained” the speakers how to use it!

Our Saturday night, our speaker Henare O'Keefe QSM was most appreciated by all respondents, and especially so by the conference team when they learned that he had come straight from a tangi and was not feeling as communicative as he is usually.

For the 20th Triennial Conference the conference team will take into account your suggestions for workshops and address concerns voiced.

In response to the concern about lack of information once the registrations were lodged, the team would like to remind you that a newsletter after each conference meeting was circulated to Diocesan Presidents for distribution to all groups. In future we will ask for email addresses of registrants so that this information can be sent at a minimal cost.

Most people agreed they enjoyed the fellowship and opportunity to meet with others from other dioceses, share ideas, and make new friends.





Overseas and Outreach

By Convenor, Mary Estcourt C

As we start up our AAW groups for 2013, the subject of subscriptions will arise, and I have been thinking about the amount that we each need to put into the Overseas and Outreach account. As I sat and had a coffee I realised that if I gave up two coffees and put the money aside I would have paid my amount! Perhaps we can all think of one thing we can go without, so our \$7.50 or more will be raised for the two parts of our mission.

Overseas Mission. In the last Circle I omitted the \$2000 to be given to Newton Theological College, PNG for the Students' Wives' Course.

During the wonderful presentation on Mission from Rosemary and Michael Bent, Rosemary mentioned that some of our partners have difficulty receiving and sending mail. We need to be patient and wait for responses from the Mission Partners we communicate with and for whom we pray.

Joe Sanegar reports to NZAMB that from 2011 spilling into 2012, the Church through the AAW programme has adopted a more pro active role in ensuring that parishioners in many of our island communities are able to access some form of clean water supply, through the provision of water tanks. The Pilot Project at Waidradra, an hour and a half drive away from Suva City has a population of about 250. They have access to tap water but continually experience water cuts due to the increasing population and new developments in the neighbouring industrial area. During the rainy season, the water is always dirty and not suitable for drinking. With a new water tank installed beside the church the whole village now has access to clean water.

Sister Beverley at the Community of the Visitation in PNG writing to Gillian Dowd, Waiapu says, "Thank you for your prayers and also the funding sent to us through NZAMB. She tells of the needs such as a new Chapel and transport to get around their Parishes, and to get some of the sisters to computer courses. She tells of the visit of Bishop David Rice and Hugh McBain, and the sending of a gift to AAW through them.

Local Mission. **Catharine White** from Gisborne writes, "We attended a Baby Expo and had a huge response from people wanting to make Wahakura for their babies. As most of them seem to be due before Christmas we have had to juggle spaces and offer extra classes. Thank you for your great love and concern." The Women's Institute magazine recently suggested there is a need for more education on the positioning and sleeping arrangements for our little ones.

Wellington. I am aware of many people who knit for the Neo Natal Unit at Lower Hutt Hospital. Many booties, singlets, cardigans, and soft toys are given each year. Let me know of your local outreach, please.



Mary Estcourt

Seeding Funds are applied for and used to help start a new project relating to Women and Children. **The Waiapu Diocese** has recently received a grant towards the setting up of Veronica's Place, a pregnancy support home in Waipawa's large old maternity home. With remodelling, it will be turned into a family home with rooms for young pregnant women. We have allocated some seeding money to this project and look forward to hearing from them later.

Social Concerns

By Pip Harrison, Convenor C

As I reported last issue, a letter has gone off to the Prime Minister and various cabinet ministers on your behalf, applauding the policy objectives in the Marmot Report 2010 'Fair Society Healthy Lives' and expressing our concerns over the effects of an increasingly inequitable society. The Marmot Report was referenced in the recent White Paper for Vulnerable Children.

I have had a reply from the Hon. Tony Ryall, Minister of Health. Mr Ryall assures us the Ministry of Health and other Government agencies are working to implement the recommendations in the White Paper. He says the Government is committed to improving the health of New Zealand children. He mentions the Well Child programme, extra funding since 2011, the B4 School check, and the new provision for children to be enrolled with a GP soon after birth, rather than at their first GP visit. It's good to be assured of good intent and progress, isn't it? Now, if we can just tackle that inequity!

In a recent Circular for the National Council of Women, as well as in recent radio bulletins, there have been items on domestic violence, vulnerable children, the abortion rate, the suicide rate, the late age at which New Zealand women are having children and the low rates of pay for those caring for our elderly. I don't know that these problems are hugely worse than they have been in the past but they are kept before us and do raise questions as to how much our society values human life.

It's true that we can't tackle problems if we don't recognise them and we do need to tackle them. However, I sometimes think we are in danger of believing our country is in a worse state than it is. We are told so often of the problems, it's easy to let them dominate our thinking.

Today I heard that 1.2 million of us in New Zealand are volunteering in one organisation or another. 1.2 million! Fantastic, isn't it? So there are actually a heap of us that value our life together in New Zealand and are striving to correct problems and make good communities.

So let us give thanks for life and for all the goodness we encounter and let's ensure the young people in our lives hear and experience that, on balance, life is good and blessings abound; that human beings might cause some pretty big problems but we can also solve them; that we are capable of great love, great creativity, great thinking. Here's to another year of promoting Christian family life – promoting life itself! Let's celebrate everything that's worth it!

AAW women share the love through tasty meals at Granger Grove



Volunteer Lynette van der Kolk with Dianne Kenderdine

Receiving high praise is not what motivates the Anglican women who volunteer to make delicious dinners for the women and children at Granger Grove in South Auckland.

Their top priorities are giving the mothers a break, offering them tips on preparing nutritious, affordable meals and helping to create a warm family atmosphere at these shared dinners. For the mums taking part in the Anglican Trust for Women and Children's three-stage residential care programme, the fortnightly visits are a highlight for which they are more than happy to give thanks.

"Oh mate. Of course I love these dinners. They cook such delicious food. But it's more than that," says Granger Grove mother, Jordan. "You can taste the love because you can tell they have taken a lot of time out of their day to do this for us."

Melody, who has a one-year-old daughter and gave birth to her son four months after moving into Granger Grove at ATWC's tranquil grounds

in Otahuhu, says the dinners have taught her and other mothers to appreciate what some people are prepared to come in and do for them.

Although Melody likes cooking – especially roasts – she says it is good to have a break from the usual routines at Granger Grove where mothers learn parenting and home-making skills so they can make a fresh start.

AAW members are part of a roster of volunteers organised by the *Friends of ATWC* who have been organising the fortnightly dinners for more than a decade.

ATWC's Dianne Kenderdine likens the volunteers' role to that of a grandmother or mother-in-law who is keen to help out. "You would do the same for your own family – come in and hold the fort when Mum's dealing with a fractious child, may not be feeling well or whatever."

Dianne says the emphasis is on preparing simple meals with inexpensive meat cuts such as mince and casserole steak as well as plenty of vegetables.

On tonight's menu is a pasta and mince bake with creamy tomato sauce, coleslaw and a lettuce tomato and capsicum salad followed by Apple Cobbler for pudding.

Granger Grove women usually cook for themselves except for one night a week when ATWC staff members cook for them. Puddings don't feature on their nightly menus and are served only on important occasions such as graduations and these special dinners prepared by volunteers.

Two volunteers are rostered on each fortnight to make a meal for about twenty women and children. They bring and pay for most ingredients themselves with the *Friends of ATWC* sometimes chipping in from their budget.

"It's not a cooking lesson per se, although we hand out recipes and answer questions," says Dianne.

Showing the women how to turn leftovers into the beginning of another meal and how to dish up fairly for others are also important, says Granger Grove's residential supervisor, Lorri Higgins. "A lot of our mums have grown up in an environment where, if they didn't grab the food they wanted straight away, they'd miss out. Dishing up for other people teaches you how to appreciate portion sizes as well as sharing."

Lorri says that while the mothers look forward to the fortnightly meals, she nevertheless feels it is important to make the dinners compulsory to validate the volunteers' efforts. "Knowing how to accept and acknowledge other people's help is an important life skill and our mothers learn that."

The tables have been set; the meals are dished up ready to be eaten. Over the clatter of plates and toddlers' chatter, Lorri calls for quiet so everyone can say grace.

***"Thank you Lord for giving us food.
Thank you Lord for giving us food.
Right where we ARE – Amen!
For friends and food, we say thank you."***

At Granger Grove mothers and children enjoy the support of skilled counsellors, child psychotherapists, family therapists and understanding care givers. As well as parenting and household skills, they learn to deal with health problems, gain an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, child abuse and trauma and begin to heal old hurts, set new goals, sort out relationships and access community resources.

For more information visit www.atwc.org.nz

As we begin the year 2013 . . .

Let us catch and hold those glimpses of God in our lives. There are different ways to encounter God.

I invite you to remember the surprising things you have learned about God and about yourself through the colourful mess of your life.

Margaret Rizza is the songwriter. I hope her song will give you a glimpse again of where God's call might be leading you.

Dorothy Brooker

In the dawning of the daylight
In the mystery of creation
Creator God, you are there.

In the breath of every being
In the birthing and the growing
In the earth and all its fullness
Creator God, you are there.

In the homeless and the hungry
In the broken, and the lonely
In the grieving of your people
Creator God, you are there.

In the tears and in the heartache
In the love through which we serve you
In the anguish of the dying
Creator God, you are there.

In our hearts and in our thinking
In the longings are the dreaming
In the yearning of our heartbeat
Creator God, you are there.

In the love for one another
In the sharing of our being
In receiving and forgiving
Creator God, you are there.

In our joys, our hopes, our healing
In awakening to revealing
In your call and our responding
Creator God, you are there.

In our praise and in our worship
In your love that is eternal
Creator God, you are there.

Mothers' Union

By Rosemary Bent

Five dioceses in New Zealand share the MU Wave of Prayer with Ireland – Christchurch and Dunedin AAW, Auckland, Wellington and Waikato/Taranaki. Recent news has come through of the 125 years of Mothers' Union there. In the early 1900s the white slave trade was rampant and MU workers warned mothers of young girls of the dangers of them accepting tempting domestic work situations in the cities and in England. The MU and the Girls' Friendly Society worked with these girls, together with other committees, in the docks of Dublin, Cork and Belfast, as well as at the railway stations. They also went out nightly on 'women patrols'. In 1915 the MU workers were in touch with over 4000 girls, many of them in 'circumstances of the greatest peril'. Sadly not all young girls found positions in domestic service as depicted in *Downton Abbey*.

Today trafficking continues across countries and continents and the worldwide Mothers' Union is still involved in trying to get this practice halted.

At the time of writing the news is full of the horrific rape and murder of a young Indian woman last December. Regrettably violence towards women is not confined to any one country and MU members everywhere support and advocate for women experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of violence. The World Health Organisation estimates that in some countries up to 71% of women experience violence.

Mothers' Union will be taking its message against violence to the UN *Commission on the Status of Women* in March, where governments will agree on ways to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls. Whilst there, MU delegates will meet with government representatives to advise on the text of agreements, and meet with other NGOs to share ideas and experiences of addressing violence against women and girls. This will form one part of a MU global campaign to end violence against women.

At Easter 2006 Mothers' Union began with 100 members at St George's Church, Baghdad. At the time the church was surrounded by razor wire and bomb barricades. Christians had suffered enormous persecution following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, and thousands of Christians had fled abroad to escape sectarian violence. Last year this membership had grown to over 2,000. Most important to the women is their life of faith.

Lent will be a time for our own MU groups to continue support of their Aim and Objects through involvement in their projects. Auckland members hope to progress with their *Bring Back Childhood* campaign, Wellington is under way with the *Parenting Encouragement Programme*, while Waikato/Taranaki and Tonga continue to reach out to new members and work in their parishes and community. All will be carried out under our theme for the year – *The Seeds We Grow*. Support given to families around the world is aimed at empowering people by sharing the skills they need to create a better life for themselves.

Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasesfika and from N through Z



Diocese of Auckland

The Diocesan End of Year Luncheon.

St Stephen's Whangaparaoa was asked to host the Auckland Diocese end of year function on Saturday 24 November - and we were encouraged to make it a memorable day. It certainly was!

This was the perfect opportunity for us to promote 'Living Life with Faith, Fun and Fellowship', the theme announced by the National Executive at the Triennial Conference.

As we arrived we were each presented with an AAW flag which we waved as we sang the first song, 'Joy is the flag flown high from the castle of my heart'.

Diocesan President Lady Rhyl Jansen welcomed us. Auckland AAW Chaplain Hilary Leith led us in a service featuring three gospel readings, with DVD clips chosen to show Jesus having fun and showing faith with his disciples.

Hilary spoke, relating the gospels to our AAW challenge. We sang the AAW hymn 'God of our journey accept now we pray', as the offertory was taken up for the Diocesan O&O fund.

Following the benediction, we sang the hymn of the Lord's Prayer to the tune of Kum Ba Yah. Then we followed Hilary up the aisle all singing 'We are marching in the light of God' waving our flags as we processed to the hall. A wonderful way to close.

From Northland and all over Auckland, seventy AAW members represented our



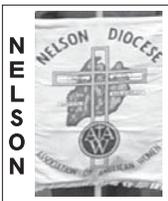
widely separated communities of Dargaville, Warkworth, Campbell's Bay, Northcote, Mangere Bridge, Remuera and Royal Oak.

A tasty smorgasbord greeted us as we entered the café which had been decorated with white tablecloths and green fir tree wreaths with purple Advent baubles. Our flags were placed in a central vase on each table.

There was much laughter and fellowship during the meal. We were entertained by Stu Duval, a professional storyteller, with his amazing drawings and banter, followed by his dramatic presentation of the story of Esther.

We created a Mandala (a symbol of human peace and unity) on the back of our AAW flags, thus taking home a beautiful message.

The entertainment concluded with a Jesuit Blessing which was demonstrated and then offered to each other in silence. The theme of 'Living Life with Faith, Fun and Fellowship' was definitely installed at this Diocesan end of year function.



Diocese of Nelson

Thirty past and present members gathered at St Paul's at the end of October to celebrate the 50th birthday of the **Waimea Women's Fellowship** which started in 1962 as a Young Wives' Group.

The day began with a communion service led by the Revd Martin Harrison. He spoke of celebrating the past but looking to the future.

Lunch followed and then one of the founding members, Diane Higgins, gave a brief history of the group. Programmes have changed as women's interests moved from 'teaching children to pray and living within their husbands' income!!'

Several members spoke of the fun and fellowship they found within the group which continues today. Five founding members plus two who joined in the first year cut the cake and everyone pored over photos bringing back happy memories.



Marlborough members met on a sparkling day at Kaikoura for a Regional Day. After a communion service and lunch, the guest speaker was Kendal Guthy who job shares with her husband David as community young person and family workers at St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Kaikoura.

Kendal told of the beginning of her Christian life, going to university, becoming a prison visitor, and then travelling to India on cross-culture missions. She worked smuggling Bibles from Hong Kong into China; has helped street kids in Bengal, often returning later to visit India again. In 2010 she met her husband; married, and moved to Kaikoura where their youth programme has twenty three young people.

The **Kaikoura AAW** group were pleased to host the Regional Meeting. One meeting was held at member Annie's home where they heard about life with her husband in Alaska. He worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service, as a pilot, biologist, and law enforcement officer there. Annie, a member of Glow International, continued her Christian mission and outreach in the Yupik villages. They were fascinated to see a plaster mould of a huge bear's paw, real gigantic Moose antlers, a wolf hide, walrus tusks and other mementoes on display.

Diane Higgins



Diocese of Wellington

Our Social Concerns Diocesan Day was held on 13 October at St Andrew's Plimmerton.

The first speaker was Michelle Branny, CEO of Wellington City Mission who provided in-depth concepts of just what the Mission does. It touches all people, from the very young to the elderly. Help is given wherever it is needed: food parcels, budgeting, housing, schooling for teenagers, and advocacy for anyone when necessary. Donations, 'eezee' meals and grants provide the necessary funds to run this organisation.

The second speaker was Jenny Duckworth who gave a glimpse of her life with Bishop Justin and of helping others less fortunate. A visit to Cambodia was a significant inspiration, and involvement in the *Urban Vision* organisation has been an integral part of their lives till now.

Meeting with Bishop Justin. Janice Viles, Heather Dawson and Pat Vincent from the Diocesan Executive had the pleasure of visiting with Bishop Justin at Ngatiawa, to discuss the role of AAW.

They spent a very pleasant morning and came away with some good discussion points for our Executive. They presented Bishop Justin with the new set of cards organised by the AAW.



1 and 2: St John's, Trentham; 3: St Mary's, Karori; 4: St Patrick's College, Silverstream; 5: St John's Theological College, Auckland.

Wellington Diocesan AAW Cards. Five stained glass windows from around churches within the diocesan area and one from St John's College together with the Diocesan Mother's Union Banner (right) were the inspiration for the production of six cards.

The windows chosen for five of these cards were designed by Beverley Shore Bennett and photographed by Glen McCullough. The cards are blank inside for the purchasers to write their own appropriate message. We are delighted with the large number that have been sold.



Groups across the diocese have celebrated Advent in varying ways. The Kapiti Region chose an international theme. Each group, dressed to suit the region selected a country and provided an item to reflect the nation concerned.

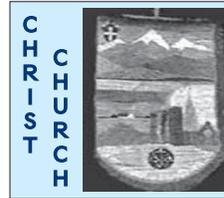
Our AAW Diocesan Chaplain Dorothy Howard showed us how to make a simple Advent Wreath for very little cost, using potatoes cut in half and



Wellington Regional Advent Happenings.

pierced with an apple corer as the candle holders. (The potatoes could still be used for cooking come Christmas!)

An Olympic quiz discovered the clever people among us. Winners received chocolate medals for a gold, bronze or silver standard of achievement!



Diocese of Christchurch

The Vicar and Leader of **All Saints AAW, Hokitika** presented a comedy line-up of members, portraying (from the left) a religious fanatic, a Greenpeace supporter, a Jazzercise geared health nut and a Women's libber.

As each intercepted the other, their fervent outbursts made for hilarious comedy which had their audience in fits of laughter.

Everyone present participated



in Holy Communion, the AGM, and enjoyed fellowship over lunch.

In December, the **Ellesmere Intermediate AAW Group** met in Leeston to celebrate 50 years since their group was founded.

Many past and present members met at 4.00 pm for a service led by the Revd Anne Price, followed by a beautifully presented high tea in the church hall. Ellesmere's Shirley Everest welcomed everyone and once Adrienne Robinson had spoken, Shirley asked Mrs Newman to cut the cake. (Mr Newman had been the minister of the Leeston Parish as it was when this group was formed.)

It was great to see so many past members attending on such a hot night just before Christmas.

The inaugural meeting was held because the women of the time felt that the young mothers of the church needed something more than was available



in those days. The subscription at that time was four shillings, and the secretary received just £1 for petty cash.

The group survived the change from Mothers' Union to AAW and still meets once a month. Back in 1963, a link was formed with a St Barnabas Group and every year we meet together once at each centre.

'Keeping Good Company' is a performing arts ministry based in **St Peter's, Upper Riccarton** providing a variety of performances in both church and community venues. They have regularly appeared at AAW gatherings over a number of years and last year was no exception.

'Deadly', an entertaining but thought-provoking look at the seven deadly sins, was presented to a number of AAW groups but is also available as a more extensive production.



Christian is tempted by Gluttony



'A Kiwi Nativity' was much appreciated by all those attending the annual carol service at **St Mary's at Halswell** (coincidentally where the Company had its origins).

Imagining what might take place should the birth of Jesus be announced in present-day rural Aotearoa, this newly-written play also featured a musical component using contemporary New Zealand carols by composers such as Shirley Murray and Colin Gibson.

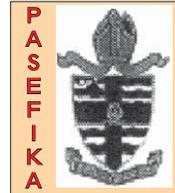
The Company is already accepting invitations for 2013 and will look forward to further opportunities to entertain AAW gatherings in the future.



The Cast

- Awards for you to Win! -

This spot in the next 3 *Circle* issues is reserved for the most creative AAW - related 160-word Short Story with one clear, descriptive photo. It could be of an inspirational person, outreach effort, or a significant event. Win a Citation and your choice of wine or chocolates. (Fiji's Leanne Edward's story on page 5 of December's *Circle* is a good model for style.) Copy deadline on page 2.



Diocese of Polynesia

A small story from **American Samoa AAW**. Maybe we are the smallest number in the Polynesian Diocese as our group has only 12 mothers and these are the only people who have tried to build up the House of the Lord in PagoPago. For this century we believe that we have been blessed for so many events such as



three mothers, including me, offering our time and ourselves to accept God's Call while we still live and have a chance to serve him. On Sunday 16 December 2012, we ordained Jemima Nafatali and Amy Blizzard to become Deacons and Tufa Tiatia Ah Ching as a Priest. The other one ordinand is a man.

The cyclone. On the eastern side of Samoa, we are all right but Western Samoa has been hit badly. Our cannery plant is collecting donations to send over to help the Western Samoan families suffering from this tragedy. (*Thank you for sending us Circle.*)



The House of Sarah based in Suva, has been recognised by the United Nations for the wonderful work it is carrying out throughout Fiji. Groups of women are involved in workshops held by House of Sarah staff over on the West Coast of Viti Levu. Some of them at Sigatoka are pictured here.

Sadly, **Anaseini (Ana) Sharma**, wife of Bishop Gabriel Sharma, Bishop in Viti Levu West, Fiji passed away recently. Archbishop David Moxon says: "Our hearts and prayers go out to Bishop Gabriel and family as they grieve, as well as giving thanks, at the passing of a truly devoted Christian woman, wife, and mother, as well as a totally dedicated and joyful partner in mission."



The Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Katikati. Seasons™ programme for loss & grief.

Significant progress has been made towards the establishment of the Seasons Programme for loss & grief in the Katikati and Waihi area, thanks in large part to a seed grant from AAW national funds, and other grants from the Katikati AAW, service clubs, and a substantial community outreach grant from St Peter's Parish, Katikati's local missions fund.

Very successful "Murder Mystery" and "Spring Fashion Parade" fund-raising events, lunches and donations helped us to the very significant milestone of employing Coordinator Paula Naudé as our Seasons™ Coordinator for the programme. Paula emigrated from South Africa in 2006, has wide experience in dealing with the result of dysfunctional and traumatised families.



Paula Naudé

Paula has an intense desire to work with children who have suffered grief or trauma. In her career she has seen the lasting results of the failure to deal with these issues, and the potential impact these failures can have on the wider community. At present, she is recruiting and arranging training for volunteer 'Companions' to work with the children for the programmes to commence at the beginning of the school term.

Members from **Waikato and Waitomo** joined with **Piako Archdeaconry** at **St Andrews Cambridge** for a Christmas themed afternoon. Forty members enjoyed the AAW service with carols, a Christmas message presented in drama form and mingling as members searched for answers to written questions.

A look back at the way it was in AAW in 1972 made us realize how the written language has changed. A glimpse into the type of programmes that appealed

to women in that era such as a fondue evening, AAW camps and Cooking biblical foods soon had members reminiscing. Topics like the 'Church's Role in Society Today' are still very relevant. Afternoon tea reflected the theme for the day.

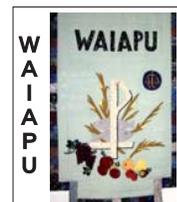
Waihi members with A/D Link Gladys Hollick (left) and Dio President Elizabeth Hayes (right).



Joan Harris, a hard working "behind the scenes" member at **St Luke's, Te Kuiti's** Family Fellowship has died. Their prayer leader for many years, she was a caring person who looked for ways to lighten someone's load whether by baking, sending thoughtful words on cards to those in need or visiting residents of Hillview Home. She is lovingly remembered by her family and friends. *Mary Macnaughtan*

The **Taranaki Archdeaconry Link** Christmas Party was held at **St Mary's, New Plymouth**. Over 40 AAW members from St Chad's, Holy Trinity, Fitzroy, Waitara, Holy Trinity, Stratford, St Mary's Fellowship and Mothers' Union had an enjoyable evening on the theme "Red and Green". Two quizzes were held with prizes donated for the most successful tables. A Hat Competition had 23 entries.

"Pass the Parcel" with a difference was hilarious. Two parcels were passed round while a story was read about Mr and Mrs Wright who left to visit his mother on Christmas Eve. The resulting mix-up of right and left caused much laughter. Grocery items sufficient for six raffles were donated. The raffle proceeds and 50c entry for the Hat Competition offset the costs of AAW Diocesan Executive Meetings. Carol singing and plenty of time to chat made for a very happy time.



Diocese of Waiapu

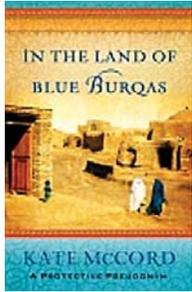
This year we hosted our own 'Light Party' at **Holy Trinity Tauranga**. Our theme was 'Super-heroes'. We had a giant Spiderman, Bouncy Castle and fifteen other games and activities for the children and their parents to do.

It was fantastic - we had about 150 attend, including families from Church, its outreach groups the 'Ark', *mainly music*, and 'Space' - as well as from the community. We even had some children who were trick or treating in the neighbourhood walk close by - and seeing how much fun we were having, they turned back and joined in the activities. 30 volunteers involved helped it all to run smoothly.



Olga Sage of St Luke's Rotorua Family Fellowship is 100 years old. She started on computers when she turned 88 and proudly displays her Computer Competency Certificate on her wall, and has her own face book page! Following the news daily, Olga loves watching sport, is an avid reader, loves entertaining, and is a competent gardener who shares the produce with any who call in. Olga enjoyed her big day with her family and was proud to receive birthday cards from the Queen and Prime Minister as well as the Governor General. AAW members called in with a potted plant and shared some of her birthday cake. She has one son and one daughter whom she skype's regularly.

Two Books well worth reading



Reviewed by Margaret Pickmere of St Aidan's, Remuera

In The Land of Blue Burqas

By Kate McCord (*A protective Pseudonym*)

In the midst of a high powered career Kate left it all, sold everything and went to Afghanistan to start a non-governmental organization with the goal of helping Afghan women. The Taliban's influence was still felt everywhere and even with occupying forces, Kate was still in great danger. Kate taught herself Dari, the local language, serving there for more than five years. This is an account of her time there and the people whom she met and whom she came to love and serve. (*Names and places being changed for their protection.*)

Right from the beginning of Kate's experiences we are aware of the extreme danger which surrounds her and we are told of the lengths which she goes to as not to offend those who meet in everyday life.

We meet and hear of the tragic loss and pain which most, if not all, of these women if not all have endured. Their world view is shaped by Islam and the interpretation of their faith by the local mullah and the men in their lives. In Afghanistan today there are strong similarities to the Jewish culture of two thousand years ago and the bible stories resonate when Kate explains Jesus' teaching. Afghans will be very direct in talking about matters of faith and it is in response to these conversations that Kate explains Jesus' teaching.

Kate is a Christian and she experiences the deep love that God has for the Afghan people and was very aware of Jesus' presence and companionship while conversing with these people. Kate left when local militias and lawlessness increased to such an extent that the NGO withdrew, but she is trusting that the seeds of faith in a loving God will grow within the hearts of the women and the people she served.

Who Is This Man? By John Ortberg, published by Zondervan 2012

On the day after Jesus' death, it looked like whatever small mark he left on the world would rapidly disappear. Instead, his impact on human history is unparalleled. John Ortberg has written a powerful testament to the effect Jesus has had on human history, on the human condition and on our understanding of the obligations of one human being to another.

Bishop N.T. Wright from the University of St. Andrew's says, "John Ortberg has nailed one of the 'Big Lies' of our time, the assertion that Christianity has been part of the problem rather than the source of the solution. Most people today don't realise that things we now take for granted, like education and health care, were reserved for the rich elite in the ancient world until the Christians insisted on providing them for everyone within reach." (*Abridged*)

Great gluten-free Recipes

From Diane Alexander

Peanut Butter Biscuits

2 cups crunchy peanut butter. 2 cups caster sugar. 2 eggs.

Heat oven to 170C. Line tray with baking paper and spray with baking spray. Mix all ingredients until well combined. Place spoonfuls on tray and flatten with a fork to allow room to spread. Bake 15-20 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Prize-winning Macaroons

Meringue: 110g icing sugar. 50g ground almonds. 12g cocoa. 2 egg whites. 40g castor sugar.

Heat oven to 170C. Finely sieve icing sugar, ground almonds and cocoa into a clean dry bowl. Place egg whites into a separate bowl and whisk until the whites have formed a thick and firm, but not dry, meringue. Gently fold in sifted sugar and almond mix a 1/3 at a time until smooth and glossy. Place in small even rounds on baking paper on a baking tray. Leave out uncovered for 15 mins, then bake for 12 minutes or until they can be removed easily. Do not overcook. Cool.

Filling: 65g chocolate (dark). 15g butter. 80ml cream. 2 Teaspoons rum (optional).

Dice chocolate and butter and place in bowl. Heat cream until boiling and pour over above and stir gently until blended well. Add rum if using. Cover and leave to set for 2 hours. Assemble by placing a small amount of the filling on to the flat side of one macaroon and place a second macaroon on top. Leave to set.



Chocolate Caramel Slice

Base: 1½ cups gluten free flour mix. ¼ cup brown sugar. ¼ cup coconut. 180g butter melted.

Heat oven to 180C. Line a slice tin with baking paper and coat with spray. Combine all ingredients and press into slice tin. Bake 10-15 mins until light golden brown.

Caramel: Melt 70g butter in saucepan; mix in 1 can condensed milk; add 2 tabs golden syrup. Stir until mixture thickens and is pale caramel colour. Pour over cooked base and bake 15 mins. Allow to cool, and ice with chocolate icing.

Gluten Free Chocolate Chippies

74g Soft Butter. 50g Brown Sugar. ¼ cup caster Sugar. 1 egg, beaten. Vanilla essence. 75g Rice flour. 75g Cornmeal. Pinch salt. 1 teaspoon gluten free baking powder. 2/3 cup choc chips.

Preheat oven to 190C. Beat butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla essence. Fold in rice flour, cornmeal, and baking powder which have been sifted together and choc chips. Place spoonfuls on a greased tray or on baking paper. Bake 10-15 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

The Auckland 'Square'

- on the Provincial AAW Banner.

Auckland is known as the City of Sails, and the magnificent Rangitoto Island makes a dramatic backdrop for this beautiful city. Our heritage is of a vibrant waterfront area and on any given day in the year there are many beautiful beaches from which to get a view of young up and coming sailors as well as the seasoned and long term pleasure boaties.

The people represent all who attend services, from babes in arms to those folk from retirement villages who are still very much part of church life.

The pohutukawa, which is our city's emblem, blooms every year around Christmas time and its red flowers remind us of the blood of our Saviour, and his sacrificial offering of himself on the Cross for us. The greening of the trees tell us of the new life we find in Christ when we turn to him, our Saviour and our Lord.

