



Council for Anglican Women's Studies

Report to General Synod 2024

2022 and 2023 with Anglican Women's Studies

The Anglican Women's Studies Centre (AWSC) is a project of justice, set up by General Synod, over 15 years ago, to ensure the equitable access to theological education by women in the Anglican Church in this Province. AWSC enables this access for women through support and mentoring, by networking, encouraging, promotion, advocacy and publishing.

We have **three areas of AWSC mission:** three pou of our whare.

Just Theology- Virtual Theology Chats, access to scholarships and study

Right relationships- with women across the church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and the Pacific, as well as globally. Advocacy for women.

Just leadership- training, mentoring, and supporting leaders and potential leaders.

The Council for Anglican Women's Studies operates with a volunteer Council of 6 women and a paid administrator (16 hours a week).



AWSC Council and LINKS, Christchurch 2023

Just Theology Virtual Theology Chats 2022 and 2023

Zooming at 7pm – 8pm Third Thursday of the month



<https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/94599431152>

Virtual Theology Chats have been stimulating and challenging us for nearly five years.

2022 saw another 11 Virtual theology Chats, and 2023 featured another 9, bringing the total to date to 32, with an average virtual audience of around 27. One hour on a Thursday evening is devoted to this innovative educational opportunity to share research projects, publications, reflections, and interests, with a wide and interested audience of women associated with the Anglican Women's Studies Centre, across all three tikanga- Maori, Pakeha and Polynesia. Speakers may be post graduate students, advanced practitioners, enthusiasts, creatives and thinkers.

You can see video of most speakers on the Anglican Women's Studies youtube channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYnCVaurLimBmNsG75GYt5A>

2022



Thursday 17 February 2022 7pm **Dr Emily Colgan**: Women and Interconnectedness: Ecological interpretations of scripture <https://youtu.be/eCHOAt1BlcQ> (54 people)



Thursday 17 March 2022 7pm **Jax Clark** THE GIFT OF DESPERATION. Jax has just completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Pastoral Theology, with her dissertation looking at the 12-Step programme and how its characteristics of honesty, openness and willingness could be enhancing to wider church culture. (41 people)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykbp13gw0HY>



Thursday 21 April 2022 7pm **'Awhi Mai Awhi Atu: Women in Creation Care'** tells the stories of thirty women from a wide diversity of cultures who describe their involvement in environmental action. Silvia Purdie gathered these stories, poems and prayers, asking the question, 'What is God up to in the world?' (20 people)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqeXgd69GaU&t=43s>



Thursday 19 May 2022 7pm **He Kākano Ahau**

Rev Jacynthia presented an indigenous perspective on "Gaps and challenges in climate action" in line with the UNCSW theme of "Achieving gender equality and empowerment in the context of climate change." (27 people)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8tfbs9swVo&t=8s>



Thursday 16 June 2022 7pm **Dr Moeawa Callaghan** *Mana Wahine Theory-Why is there a need in Church and Society today?* Moeawa Callaghan visited a range of written and oral sources that support the claim that women have always held leadership positions in Maori society.

(25 people)



Thursday 21 July 2022 7pm **Sarah Pidgeon** : *Nobody Heard us: The case of Ms T and her sister MS S-* a theological response to issues arising from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care in relation to child sexual abuse (23 people)

Recording available on request.



Thursday 18 August 2022 7pm **Annette Cater** *Leading Lady Seeks Stipend: How Humour, Honesty And A Robust Prayer Life Have Been Key To One Priest's Leadership Journey.*

Join Rev Annette Cater, freshly appointed Vicar of Lower Hutt Anglican Parish as she shares openly and honestly about her 20 year journey of paid ministry in the Anglican Church (23 people) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pllk-ir8D9s&t=262s>

Thursday 22 Sept 2022 The Revd Sepi Hala'api'api



JESUS-shaped Leadership as a Young Woman. Sepiuta Hala'api'api was born to Tongan missionary parents, born and raised in Fiji. She currently serves as an ordained minister – one of the few young women in ordained ministry in the Diocese of Polynesia. She also currently serves as the Diocesan Secretary and Registrar for The

Anglican Diocese of Polynesia. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKU3JCM6tB0&t=14s>



Thursday 20 Oct 2022 7pm **Kelera Oli works in Fiji in the area of Climate**

Change. Climate change is a threat to the existence of many in small island states. As God's creation is made in His image, we are responsible stewards of all creation. Christian environmental ethic is now an essential teaching or learning area for Christians to ensure that we work together for the safeguard of our environment. As responsible citizens of planet Earth we should be able to help others who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibeE10B8vQk>

Thursday 17 November 2022 7pm **Bishop Denise Fergusson, Revd Jacynthia Murphy, and Ms Teresa Kundycki-Carrell : reflections on the Lambeth Conference 2023**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bmqmai_Odgl

Thursday 15 December **Jess Hall, Bridie Boyd and friends** *Towards Christmas: A Theology of the Womb*, a discussion inspired by Christy Bauman's book.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp840NErkpo>

2023



Thursday 16 February 2023 Ms Cassandra Burton-Wood

Cassandra describes how to run a successful and productive writing retreat. What do we need to consider? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPCzhV7vstA&t=40s>

Thursday 16 March 2023 **The Revd Sue Paton** Feminist theology and ecofeminist theology are not simply fresh and challenging ways to consider God and theology, but are attempts to overhaul the Christian establishment's patriarchally-infused orthodoxy. Why is ecofeminist theology a study that all who practise spirituality should consider? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIBxDF2zIOM&t=41s>



Thursday 20 April 2023 **Dr Jennifer Lewis**. International scholar, Jennifer Lewis, was based in New Zealand for some time this year. Here, she explores the significance of Julian of Norwich for today.

Contemplative, Feminist, and Faith-full: Creating Contemplative Learning Communities with Julian of Norwich <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=latcendm0bq>



Thursday 18 May 2023 **Galumalemana Bolivia Smith** speaks about Lalagaina o la'u malaga (Weaving my Journey) Bolivia tells of the people, the influences and experiences which took her on a circuitous journey towards leadership in the church and in her professional life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvaDMLhS37w>



Thursday 15 June 2023 **The Revd Dr Nyasha Gumbeze**

Nyasha attended a course at St Georges College, Jerusalem, and travelled parts of the Holy Land. What did she learn?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsC6sk6ej9c&t=41s>



Thursday 20 July 2023 **Lissy Robinson Cole and Rudi Robinson** Artists Lissy Robinson-Cole (Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu) and Rudi Robinson (Ngāti Paoa, Ngaruahine, Ngāti Makirangi, Ngāti Tu) have been using their creative energies to explore mātauranga Māori and their personal whakapapa through crocheted sculptural forms over the past eight years.

Their mahi brings together bright, neon colours and traditional toi whakairo shapes to offer a new way of understanding the importance of joy and aroha within te aō Māori. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zwmpXJjo-w>



Thursday 17 August **The Revd Deb Cole** "Ko te puawaitanga o ngā moemoeā, me whakamihī" (Princess Te Kirihaehae Te Puea hērangi) Dreams become a reality when we take action. Deb Cole is studying the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, based on research and her own whanau experience. What has she discovered along the way?



Thursday 21 Sept 2023 **The Revd Mere Wallace** Te Orange Ake

Our theology begins from Aroha, which is love, which is best described in the Bible in the saying of Jesus: "I came so that you might live." This life grows from the love that Christ introduced for us as a people. It is also about Rongo, which is peace. How do we become peaceful? And it's around Hari, which is joy. To live our best lives using a theological practice, what do we need to do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLawxngTdCQ>



Thursday 19 October 2023 **Dr Miryam Clough** Miryam is a resident scholar and adjunct pouako at Ōrongonui, the regional ministry training programme of Te Hui Amorangi ki Te Tai Tokerau. Her research explores the intersection of shame and various types of violence, both overt and subtle, particularly as they impact on those marginalised by dominant cultures.

Virtual Theology Chats

Format: Using Zoom, the presenter/s speaks for 20 -30 minutes, then the host invites comments, questions and responses from the virtual audience. The chat ends after 1 hour.

<https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/94599431152>

Right relationships

2022

The Provincial Hui is a major focus for Leadership development and theological education.

The Provincial Hui planned for 2020 was postponed to October 2021, then to April 2022. However Covid-19 made us pivot into several **Pop-Up Hui**- local based one day events.

Christchurch *All Souls Merivale, with a hearty number of local wāhine in attendance. Guest speakers Miriam Fisher and Jess Hall presented on "Art for Spirituality, Art for Scholarship," . It was their collective assertion that the arts both have a God-ordained place in mature Christian worship and present a timely challenge to contemporary scholarship regarding sources of theological knowledge. (Jess Hall)*

Hamilton . *A dozen clergy women met at Ethos Café. They discussed ways*

- *to bring the female voice into strategic discussions*
- *for a gender balance of presenters at events*
- *the perceived assumption female clergy are more able to be non-stipendiary than male clergy*
- *for a regional/diocesan data base for female clergy to enable ongoing contact*
- *to explore how to research data relating to women's ordained ministries with a focus on stipended/non-stipended roles and leadership. (Sandy Neal)*

Auckland *Held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, our discussion centred mainly on how the women were manging as well as sharing anything that was new in their lives. The theme of lack of real support to women in ministry was a common thread among the attendees. This lack of support is believed to be rooted in the hierarchical and structural setting of our church.(Nyasha Gumbeze)*

2023

2023 was a year of building relationships.



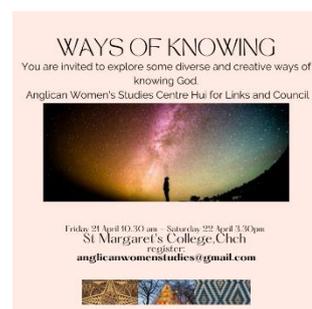
February in Samoa . In February, the Council, along with Bishop Waitohiariki, and some Link representatives, travelled to Samoa and met over three days with the AAW, local women and as a Council. The theme was *Women, Faith, Society*, celebrating the unity and diversity of our three tikanga Church, and making visible the vision of AWSC, which is to advance the ministry, leadership and theological education of women. We experienced generous



hospitality from the members of All Saints, Apia, wonderful organisation from Zita Reid, and a great deal of learning and sharing experiences. This meeting also provided a forum to raise concerns about the abuse and misuse of power in the Church.



April in Christchurch In April, a second smaller Hui was held in Christchurch . The theme was *Ways of Knowing God* through art, meditation, inter-tikanga sharing, a hangi and much informal connecting. Present at this hui were more Link representatives, and local women, in the beautiful All Souls Church complex in Merivale, with comfortable accommodation at St Margaret's College. This Hui provided another opportunity for the issue of abuse to be further discussed. The need for education and access became clear. This in turn led to a meeting with the House of Bishops, and also to two full sessions being scheduled at



the November Provincial hui, with leadership from the Registrar for Ministry Standards, and the Commissary for Reconciliation and Restoration.

Auckland in November ASWC was delighted to be able to hold a Provincial Hui in 2023, after all the disruption of the Covid years. Over 75 women from all areas of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia attended.

This hui was a major focus for leadership development and theological education, for networking, resource sharing, deepening spirituality, and building essential relationships. Speakers included Dr Emily Colgan, The Revd Dr Eseta Mateiviti-Tulavu, Ms Wendy Ball, Ms Miriam Fisher, Rev Fran and Rev Keri-Ann Hokianga, Rev Val Riches, Rev Tai Tuatagaloa and many more.



Many Hands; He Waka Eke Noa; Tele o lima e mama ai se avenga; Ni levu na liga e mamada na cakacaka; Takanga 'etau fohe

2-5 November 2023, at Tatai Hono Marae, Holy Sepulchre Church, Khyber Pass Road, Auckland.

Networking- Within Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, AWSC has been involved with the St John's College Women's Leadership group, the 2 Leadership Writing retreats, held at Vaughan Park. AWSC sponsored several women to travel to these events.

AWSC has informal contacts with AAW, Mothers' Union and Kahui Wahine.

Internationally, there are relationships with International Anglican Women's Network, Movement for the Ordination of Women and United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Right relationships for AWSC involves a commitment to the education about and promotion of Ministry Standards in the Church

Social media.

The website www.anglicanwomen.nz features stories, theology, resources, poetry and art submitted from Anglican women throughout our Province.

Monthly Newsletters – The AWSC emails out a monthly newsletter. This highlights new additions to the website, up coming events, and most importantly the next Virtual Theology Chat.

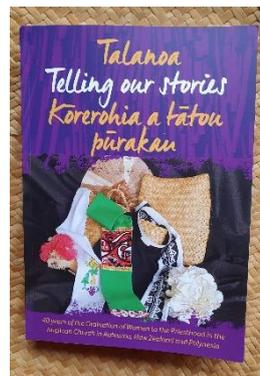
The email database of over 700 includes women , men and some organisations, from across the three tikanga and into our international relationships via IAWN and ACC. Please ask to join!

Facebook: See our public facebook page. *Anglican Women's Leadership*. You can also ask to join our private page, *Anglican Women's Studies Network*.

Publishing

Publishing in 2022 No print publication in 2022, but steps towards creating an audiobook version of Talanoa. However Vashti's Banquet was given to every ordinand in Waikato a covering letter from Val Riches and Carole Hughes.

AWSC did not publish a book in 2023 ,because of money and constraints, but almost every Virtual Theology Chat is youtube.



taken a copy of Diocese, with

time published on

Just Leadership

Mentoring in 2022

- 1.Eight women in Fiji were financially supported for study towards Diploma in Pastoral Counselling- by January 2022, four had graduated and gone on to further training.
2. Writing Retreat Six women were granted travel costs to attend the inaugural Women's Writing Retreat, Vaughan Park, Auckland, 25-28 October 2022 total \$ 3000.00
3. Silvia Purdie was granted funds to assist with promotion of her book, *Awhi Mai, Awhi Atu* \$700.00
4. Merekaraka te Whitu was granted funding for Toastmaster training, and associated costs \$1000

Mentoring in 2023 the Council has mentored in the following ways:

- 1.Six women in Fiji were financially supported to attend the Provincial Hui
2. Writing Retreat One woman was granted travel costs to attend the I Women's Writing Retreat, Vaughan Park, Auckland, in Sept 2023 total \$ 1500.00
3. Several women were granted subsidies for their travel to the Hui

4. Two women church leaders in Honiara were granted travel costs to attend the Provincial Hui (but did not attend , owing to visa problems)

All Anglican women are welcome to apply for mentoring funding for study or projects.

Leadership. All Virtual Theology Chats feature a woman in leadership. All AWSC events include leadership awareness, skills, opportunities, and advocacy.

AWSC plans to cooperate on the collection of data about the Leadership of women within the Church.

Three tikanga Council



The six **Councillors** are appointed by General Synod, who are required to select women with the skills for these positions. **Current Councillors** are appointed for an initial 4 year term. Only one from each tikanga may be replaced at each General Synod.

Those standing down by General Synod 2024 are Bettina Maxwell and Nyasha Gumbeze. One from tikanga Polynesia will also be replaced.

AWSC is deeply appreciative of the contribution of Nyasha and Bettina in shaping our mission.

TIKANGA MĀORI : Revd Bettina Maxwell, Tōrere, Opotiki

Revd Ruihana Paenga, Gisborne

TIKANGA PĀKEHĀ: Mrs Bridie Marsden-Boyd , Christchurch

Revd Dr Nyasha Gumbeze, Auckland (resigned in November 2023. Alternate: Revd Natalie Milliken, Dunedin

TIKANGA PASEFIKA: Ms Kelera Oli, Fiji

Mrs Zita Reid, Samoa

LINK Representatives

The **Link representatives** from each Diocese, Hui Amorangi, and Archdeaconry, are chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry, whether it is lay or ordained. These 15 representatives meet with the Council once a year in person, and several times by Zoom, for networking, sharing resources, professional development and planning local events.

Contact details on anglicanwomen.nz

TIKANGA MĀORI

Hui Amorangi o te Tairāwhiti Rev Tessa Tamihere, Gisborne

Hui Amorangi o te Taitokerau Revd Deb Cole, Auckland

Revd Jenny Quince, Auckland

Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

Revd Raumiria McRoberts, Tokoroa

Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika Revd Kura Andrews, Porirua

Diocese of Te Waipounamu Revd Tapita Ching, Nelson

TIKANGA PĀKEHĀ

Diocese of Auckland

Revd Carole Hughes, Auckland, then Revd Dr Nyasha Gumbeze

Diocese of Christchurch Revd Stephanie Clay Christchurch

Diocese of Dunedin

Dunedin area: Revd Dr Anne van Gend, Dunedin

Southland area: Ms Jenny Campbell, Mossburn

Diocese of Nelson

Revd Kaye Dyer, Blenheim

Diocese of Waiapu

Position Vacant—tba

Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki Ms Heather Riches,

Taumarānui

Diocese of Wellington Ms Sonya Lewthwaite

sonya.lewthwaite@gmail.com 027 240 7945

TIKANGA PASEFIKA

Samoa Archdeaconry Mrs Quandolita Reid Enari, Samoa

Fiji Archdeaconry Ms Adi Lilieta Tuidama, Fiji

Tonga Archdeaconry Ms Akanesi Folau, Tonga

New Zealand Archdeaconry Revd Lipena T Smith Auckland

Ms Maple F. Pa'iaa, [Auckland](#)

AWSC was set up at General Synod 2006 to serve and advance the interests and needs of the **women of this Church**, especially those undertaking theological training. Increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the church is a high priority.

Contact: Administrator Ms Ceridwyn Parr anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com

