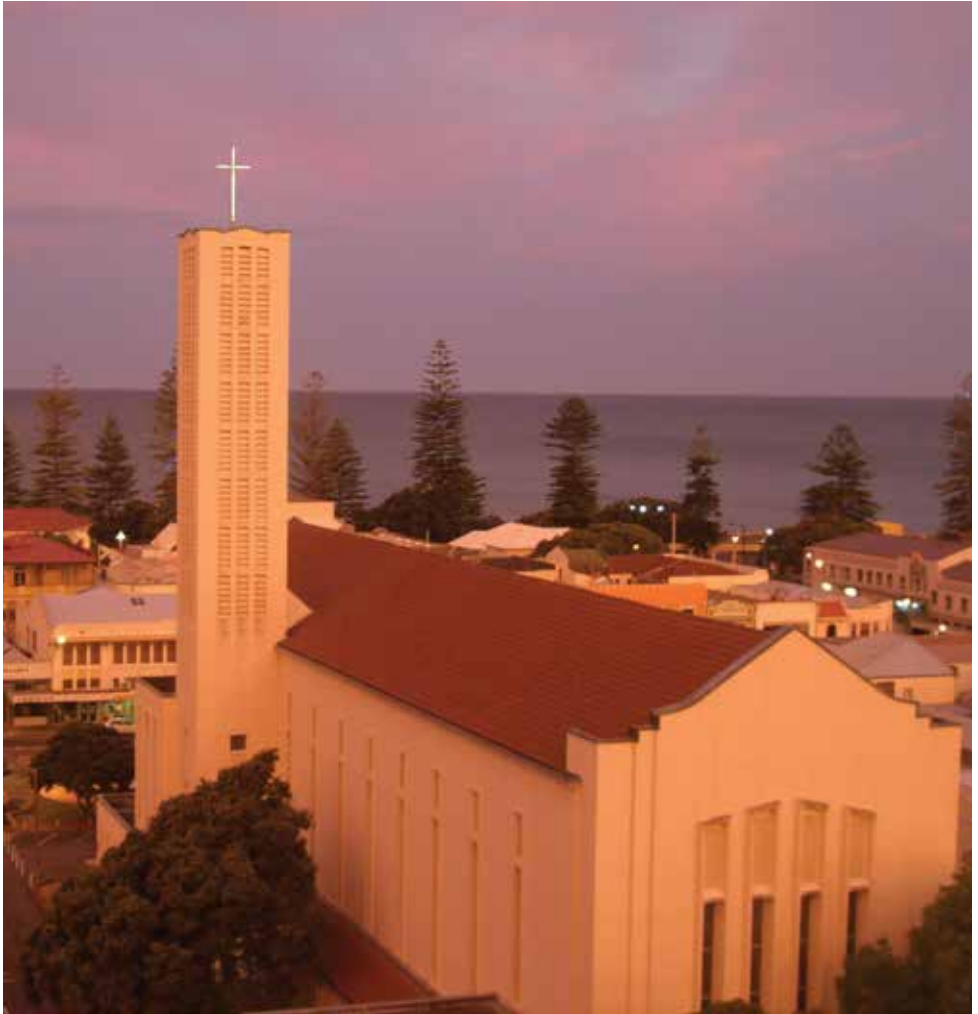


# Circle



Connecting Anglican Women



Vol. 59 / Issue 3 / September 2023

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PRAYER

PRAISE

PURPOSE

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# Prayer

Trust God, my friends, and always tell Him each of your concerns. For God is our place of safety.

*Psalm 62:8*

# Praise

Our sacrifice is to keep offering praise to God in the name of Jesus.

*Hebrews 13:15*

# Purpose

We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves Him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose.

*Romans 8:28-29*

*(The NZ President has the privilege of choosing the three-year theme for her term. The above named theme was announced at the 2023 NZAAW Triennial Conference in Napier.)*

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**Front cover image:** Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Napier





# From the President

**A**ssociation of Anglican Women members and lone members throughout New Zealand and Polynesia, I greet you as your NZAAW President. I have chosen as our theme for the next three years 'Prayer Praise and Purpose'.

This morning as I write this, I attended the 8 o'clock Eucharist Service at my local Church. Our minister gave a sermon from Matthew 13 (1-9) based on the Parable of the Sower and Jesus' explaining the Parable of the Sower (18-23). Connections were also made to the first chapter of Genesis, the creation story and the recent celebration of Matariki. The linking theme was that they both referred to the stars.

Both the Hebrews and Māori have a deep and caring respect for our precious environment, that nourishes and sustains us. She concluded, by making reference to the Benedicte Aotearoa This is in the Liturgies of the Eucharist, from the New Zealand Prayer Book. The first line is spoken by the clergy with the bold text spoken by the congregation. I include it here.

## **Benedicte Aotearoa**

1. O give thanks to our God who is good:  
**whose love endures forever.**
2. You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**
3. sunrise and sunset, night and day:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

4. All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,  
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

5. You Kauri and Pine, rata and kōwhai, mosses and ferns:  
**give to your God your thanks and praise.**

6. Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab,  
coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

7. Rabbits and cattle. Moths and dogs  
kiwi and sparrows and tūi and hawk:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

8. You Māori and Pākehā, women and men,  
all who inhabit the long white cloud:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

9. All you saints and martyrs of the South Pacific:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

As I reflected on our themes for the next three years, I realised that Benedicite Aotearoa includes two of our themes that of prayer and praise.

Please feel free to use these themes as you plan your programmes for your groups in the year ahead.

*Cynthia Prince*

# Bishop Andrew Reflects



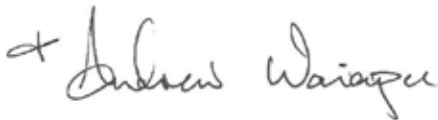
It gives me great pleasure to write this article for Circle as Cynthia Prince from our Diocese of Waiapu begins her term as National President, and as AAW as a whole embarks on its next three-year theme: Prayer, Praise, Purpose. I really like the idea of having a theme around which the Association can focus, and this theme in particular is helpful in the way it can nurture your relationships with God and with one another.

When we pray we are responding to God's love, which surrounds us in everything that we do. Prayer enables us to deepen our awareness of that love, as we come before God to give thanks for blessings we have received and to ask for help with issues that concern us.

Praise honours God for who God is, and we, as the church and as individual members of it, offer this to God. When we do these things we learn to align ourselves with God's purpose. We can get some idea of what this is and what we as baptised members of the church are called to do when we remember the Catechism's comment on the purpose of ministry: it is "to continue Jesus' servant ministry in the world by witnessing to God's reconciling love, to bring in the Kingdom of God, to build up the body of Christ, and to glorify God's holy name."

It occurs to me that "*Prayer, Praise, Purpose*" isn't only directed to God: your theme can also help develop relationships between you all, as people who are members of the body of Christ. Christians pray for each another – and that can involve sharing our needs with one another, as I'm sure members of AAW groups do when they meet. Taking the time to notice when someone has done good work, and to praise them for it, is a way to encourage one another, and this helps to strengthen relationships within an organisation, a parish, or a family. Being united by a common purpose is also important, and I know you take seriously the AAW aims: "*to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of this Church, and to promote, safeguard, and nurture Christian family life.*"

May you be strengthened by God's love as you live out this theme over the next three years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Waiapu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge  
Bishop of Waiapu

# Social Concerns

## Taking the Initiative to Make a Difference!



In the midst of such hard financial times for most people in Aotearoa, it is heartening to hear of the initiatives of different communities and organisations that are making a difference.

In the education sector for example, high school teachers and principals are making allowances and implementing new strategies to support the many students who are balancing the immediate need to financially support their whānau - while at the same time attempting to ensure the best future educational outcome for themselves.

Better long-term individual educational outcomes are recognised as being crucial to bring about intergenerational financial stability for the whole whānau. Emphasis is being put on teachers'



cross-cultural understanding to strengthen relationships between children's whānau members, thereby supporting better learning outcomes for tamariki.

This increased cross-cultural understanding is vital for better overall pastoral care of children and their families.

One community social enterprise making a real difference to the lives of their local West Auckland population is Manāki Kai, a social supermarket. This initiative, a joint enterprise between Visionwest and Foodstuffs New Zealand, is a response to the very individual food needs of the local population. Visionwest's food bank support system has been operating for over thirty years, supporting over 400 whānau a week with wrap around services.

The new social supermarket venture sits beside the food bank offering a more personalised service as it provides the opportunity for people to make their own food choices in a dignified 'user friendly' space. Manāki Kai can be visited every four weeks and operates on a coupon system with monetary donations welcomed. Unlike traditional supermarkets most of the food items are unpackaged enabling shoppers to meet their own personal dietary requirements by being free to choose individual food items.

It is very affirming from a social concerns perspective to hear of a large New Zealand company such as Foodstuffs supporting social supermarkets as part of its 'Here for New Zealand' initiative to ensure all New Zealanders have access to healthy and affordable food. Foodstuffs have also partnered with the Wellington City Mission to set up a social supermarket, and in the Far North the social supermarket goes under the name of Te Hikiu Pātaka (a community pantry). There are plans for further social supermarkets throughout New Zealand, including in Tauranga and Whangarei.

Many local communities are seeing initiatives being taken by small groups of people to make a difference to their community. The local early childhood learning centre I work at has in the last week, along with parent help, built a food pantry to support the local community. It will be placed on the road outside our centre, coincidentally just opposite my church's local opportunity shop, Second Chance.

Perhaps along with all the opportunity shops along our street we are making a special 'hub of care' in our community?

*Kia kaha Julie Walker, Social Concerns Co-Ordinator*

## AAW Prayer

O God, our Father, whose love for all people  
is proclaimed in Jesus Christ,

We thank you for uniting us in prayer and fellowship.  
Use us now in the mission of your Church.

Help us to realise that everything we do and say  
reflects our love for you.

Bless homes and families throughout the world,  
especially those who are suffering from natural disasters  
illness or deliberate human action.

Show us how, by our example and concern, we can take  
your peace and love wherever your Spirit may lead us,  
today and all our days. Amen

# Overseas and Outreach

## Goal Reached!



**J**ust in case you didn't hear the great news – we achieved our goal. NZAAW, with the input of many, many groups, raised over \$10,000, in fact, possibly by now over \$11,000, and Anglican Missions has sent this all on to the Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School in Suva.

Isn't it wonderful to know we have truly helped hundreds of young school children to have access to food in their own school canteen? The long-lasting benefits of having energy to learn while young are well-proven. The photo shows an up-to-date picture. Thank you!

## Changes to Giving

The NZAAW Executive is well aware that most of us are coping with tight budgets. They have decided from next year to stop the almost automatic \$8.00 addition of giving to O & O in our subs, and instead to have a single NZ-wide one-year project each year, with feedback on our progress.

It has been hard to support some places in the Pacific with no acknowledgment of what precisely our giving is doing. So, we can be more informed and more in control of our donations. Hopefully this will be a blessing to us all.

*Raewyn Dawson, Overseas and Outreach Co-Ordinator*

# Settlement of Refugees in Levin

## Address by Steve Fowler

**A** refugee is a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.

A migrant is someone who chooses to move from their home district or country to better circumstances. In 2022:

- Approx. 103 million people displaced because of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations etc.
- Approx. 32 million displaced persons classified as refugees.
- 162 000 refugees returned to their countries in the first half of 2022. 43 000 resettled in other countries by UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) and other agencies.
- Syria 'provided' the largest number of refugees; Turkey took in the highest number of refugees. The vast majority of refugees are hosted in countries neighbouring their own.

## New Zealand

- Accepts 1500 UNHCR Quota refugees each year.
- Is one of only about 30 countries accepting UNHCR 'Quota' refugees, as decided by Immigration NZ.

- Refugees spend 5 weeks at the Mangere Refugee Centre in Auckland before moving to one of 14 towns or cities, depending on their ethnic group.

Levin has resettled 90 former refugees from Colombia each year, since October 2022, thanks to the Red Cross and support from the Horowhenua Council and local iwi. (Since 1985, approximately 8 million people have suffered forced displacement from Colombia.)

If you would like to consider serving as a volunteer with our new families, contact is Lesley McDonald (Regional Volunteer Trainer) – 027 326 2709 – [lesley.mcdonald@redcross.org.nz](mailto:lesley.mcdonald@redcross.org.nz) To donate items, please contact your local Red Cross Office (needs vary from place to place – eg. Bikes have been of particular value in Levin because of the lack of public transport).

*Eskaleen Tooley – Puatahanui AAW.*

# When the Rains Came

## - a Cyclone Story

**O**n 12 February 2023 Cyclone Gabrielle made landfall on the Northern tip of Aotearoa and worked its way down the eastern side of North Island.

At 8am on the 13th February it hit Te Karaka, a township, 25kms north of Gisborne, where I live with my husband and teenage children, on a 5ha orchard. At 8pm a warning was issued asking all people in low lying areas to self-evacuate.

At approximately 3am on the 14th February the Waipaoa River to the east of Te Karaka broke its bank, meeting up with the Waikohu River to the north of Te Karaka which had also broken

its bank. The two rivers then proceeded to silently engulf the township.

There was no option other than to evacuate. This was not a tsunami but an inundation, which from start to finish, lasted about 20 minutes. The township population literally woke to water lapping around their beds. At 3.10am the water was knee high, by 3.20am it was at chest height. There was no option other than to evacuate.



At 4am we were woken by the sound of frantic knocking on our door, to find a whānau of nine people including an 82-year-old and a two-year-old, on our driveway, freezing cold, soaking wet and terrified.

The whānau told us that they had had literally minutes to grab what they could before evacuating their homes. The water was so high and so fast they had to form a human chain to leave their properties. They were lucky to make it out alive.

After bringing them indoors, we found out that our house, being on a slight incline, was one of a handful of properties to miss the flooding - but we were now cut off on all sides.

Luckily, we have solar power and were able to make hot drinks and feed everyone. However, the cyclone had knocked out all

forms of communication, nothing was going out and nothing was coming in. All we could do was sit and wait.

By 10am we began to hear the first of the helicopters and planes that became part of our new normal for several weeks as they made the journey between Gisborne and outlying townships bringing in much needed supplies.

I will never forget the sound of rushing water around us, it was like an enormous waterfall.

By 4pm the Cyclone was gone; however, the damage is like nothing we had ever witnessed. Every property in Te Karaka township was flooded. Homeless whānau had to camp at the local school. Many, many whānau lost everything.

For us, our entire orchard was and still is covered in a thick layer of silt. The strength of the water lifted an entire chiller unit and moved it several feet. We are still cleaning muddy water out of our tractors and farm machinery.

Our house thankfully was not too badly impacted other than a hole in the roof which leaks water into the living room and kitchen ceilings via the light fittings.

We do not know what the outcome will be for the orchard. We lost at least one block of apricots and plums. Only time will tell, but my husband still valiantly put on his gumboots, waded through the mud and did his normal pruning routine on the trees that look like they might survive. Sometimes it's about putting one foot in front of another.

Ours is just one Cyclone story and there are thousands more. We thank God that we came through it. Our prayers go out to the whanau who came to us, as well as all whanau impacted by the Cyclone throughout the Motu.

*Julie Adcock, Eastland*

# Cyclone Gabrielle - Hukarere School

One of the privileges of being the Chaplain at Hukarere Girls College in Hawke's Bay was to be in a school where saying Morning Prayer is an established daily practice. It was interesting to me that the use of our Prayer Book was taken for granted, students finding their way around the order of service set down for each day and then leading the whole school each morning in worship. In the Hostel this daily practice often included Evening Prayer, and prayer/karakia was always a priority.

I often wondered if it had any real meaning for the students. Old fashioned words, nothing modern added – just the set form with the set readings, prayers, and responses. However, on the night Cyclone Gabrielle struck the Esk Valley, God exposed my somewhat faithless wondering. As the water in the nearby river rose, the Hostel Manager, who had been checking it over the evening, realised her staff and students were in great danger. She managed to organise an evacuation that saved the lives of all the girls and her staff. Later she told me that as they were driving away in the increasingly heavy rain, one of her senior students called out from the back of the van – “Whaea! We forgot the Prayer Book!

Amelia the Manager however had one, and when they arrived at the marae that night, and as they settled in to sleep, one of the students led them in Evening Prayer. Though the school and hostel were totally lost, fifty souls were saved that terrible night. Now I wonder: would you and I have made the New Zealand Prayer Book a priority when fleeing to safety? What a witness to the value of the daily practice of prayer, to the faith it can nurture and the resilience it can build in all of us.

*Erica Fairbrother*



# Letter to the Editor

*Dear Circle Editor*

*While looking at our old photo albums I came across one from the 1960s when hundreds of us young Anglicans met for a conference at Ardmore Teachers' Training College near Papakura. It was a wonderful fun time and I'm sure some of us would still be alive and attending church. Does anyone else remember it, or another one a little later in the Hutt?*

*Sincerely*

*Daniel Evans (née Lobb) St Luke's AAW, Havelock North*

**Keep the Date Free**



**THE ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN**

**AAW TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

**19 – 21 APRIL 2024**

**At Woodford House,  
Havelock North, Hawkes Bay**

*Further details to follow soon...*

## NZAAW Executive Committee and Commissioning Service



*Commissioning service at Waiapu Cathedral*

Over the weekend of the 13th and 14th May, the Waiapu Diocese hosted the NZAAW Executive Committee at All Saints Anglican Church in Taradale. Executive meetings and the AGM were held, as well as the commissioning of the new NZAAW committee at St John's Cathedral in Napier. The service began and ended with a parade of banners. I was presented with the NZAAW Banner and a President's badge by the out-going President Dr Jude Mackenzie.



Rev'd Deborah Broome, Diocesan Ministry Educator, gave an inspiring sermon. Her theme was: "Love, knowledge and service". Speaking of the newly elected President and Executive, she referred to Jesus' teaching on loving service: Those elected "are not there to do all the work themselves: they lead so that each of us can play our part. Together we are all called to serve those around us, and that service arises out of the love we have for God and for God's world.... We serve because He served."

Speaking of AAW, Deborah noted: "what stands out, when you hear AAW members talk, is the strength of the relationships, the love and support that they get from one another. It is that, ultimately, which leads people to be willing to serve in leadership roles in the Association."

"How does your love for God express itself in service?" Deborah concluded her sermon with the AAW prayer.

*President Cynthia Prince*

# Of Special Mention...

## Anne Carpenter (1932 –2023)



**A**nne McMurray Cole was born in Auckland at the end of 1932. She was brought up in a very active Christian family, and married Theo, a vicar. From 1959 she was active in both Mothers Union and Young Wives, and in the early 1970s she joined AAW.

In 1987 – 1991 she was AAW Diocesan President for Wellington Anne was NZAAW President 1992-95.

A highlight of her term of office was in 1994 visiting Tonga, Samoa and Fiji for their Silver Jubilee celebrations of AAW.

Anne represented NZAAW at various celebrations in Wellington, notably in 1993 as part of the Women's Suffrage Centennial, which opened with a service in Wellington Cathedral to launch this centennial celebration.

In 2005 Anne became the second Provincial President of Mothers' Union in Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia. A highlight of her term of office was attending the Anglican Communion held in England.

Anne had a strong faith which sustained her throughout her life, despite failing health.

Anne's memory will live on through the many wonderful moments and stories (which many of us were part of) and gathered on her journey through her involvement and love of AAW and MU.

May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

*Ann Desmond (Wellington Mothers' Union President)*

# Auckland

## St Mary by the Sea



Pictured are blankets, etc that were knitted for the Anglican Trust for Women and Children to be distributed to tamariki affected by the terrible weather events of 2023 in Auckland.

# Waiapu

## Vicar's Wife Ordained



*St Luke's Havelock North recently celebrated the ordination of their very own vicar's wife. Her husband, Fr John Matthews, wrote this article for the parish magazine:*

Inaturally want to share with you some thought around Sue's call and service of ordination to the Priesthood, and the joy of being allowed to be alongside her as she presided for the first time as a Priest. Revd Sue was not called to ordained ministry until the lockdown here in 2020, as the lockdown had a profound effect on many lives, Sue's was changed in a way that we could not have imagined when we set out from Wales to serve this parish.

As Sue began her discernment journey I as her adult baptismal sponsor stood back and tried not to interfere with the work of the Wairua Tapu/Holy Spirit, and I was able to share with her the genuine excitement of having her call recognized and the ordination to the transitional Diaconate in 2021. We have seen Sue on our screens take part in worship in our Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, and that has been a joy for us to see.

Sue has spent time learning what it means to serve in our Diocesan Church, that is there for the whole Diocese, and it was lovely to join in her recent ordination to the Priesthood. Thank you to all of you who joined us on that happy occasion. To be present when she presided at her first Eucharist was a rare privilege and I will treasure that moment forever. People often see this as an upgrade, a bit like adding a new more powerful chip to a computer – yet the call to Priesthood is distinct, without ever diminishing that of the Deacon.

As a Vicar, as a husband and as a Parish we give thanks for God's call on Sue's life. We pray for Sue and where God will lead her next.

## **Havelock North AAW**

Our June meeting was held at Birdwood Gallery and Café, which has a landscaped sculpture garden with African animals and recycled sculptures. After a short meeting, which seemed to be enjoyed by all, we had afternoon tea and a pleasant chat, including a discussion on a National Council of Women submission on proposed changes to Parental Leave.

Our July guest speaker was Sarah Mulcahy from Anglican Care Waiapu who spoke about Support for the Homeless. For this, Anglican Care Waiapu has joined in partnership with Hastings Churches and the Hastings District Council. A lot of the homeless people have addiction, mental health or other

problems and services are available, such as the ministry of Social Development. The police also call in the morning and Sarah goes once a week and has a cup of tea. The people are encouraged to help with such things as doing the dishes or cleaning the toilets. It is encouraging to hear about this system and hopefully there will be enough housing built for all these people very soon.

# Taranaki

## Archdeaconry Link Gathering

I have just reread from the February Circle the paragraph I wrote about our successful Archdeaconry Link Gathering in December.

Since then in March, we had to farewell Norma Benton our much loved and respected Diocesan Representative.

Sadly, no one has come forward to replace her.

On Tuesday May 2nd St Chad's AAW members hosted a Link Gathering but numbers were much depleted this time. Never the less, fun, food and fellowship were enjoyed before we discussed the future of AAW in Taranaki and the continuation of the Link.

Holy Trinity AAW members offered to take over the Link Gatherings from St Chad's, which was much appreciated after arranging these twice-yearly gatherings for the last three years.

Our time together ended with a short contemplative service conducted by Evelyn Froom LLM.

*Mary Needs (Secretary)*



# Bay of Plenty

## Knitted Holding Crosses



I first got the idea of knitted holding crosses from England as the churches there knitted thousands during the lockdown in 2020, giving them to residents in their care homes.

As a chaplain in a care home, I had usually given wooden ones but found them too hard for many elderly residents to hold, and as a result the crosses ended up in a drawer instead of in the hand. The knitted ones are

squishy, bright, soft, and easy for arthritic or dying hands to hold.

After knitting the first batch, I Facebooked the photo and a clergy colleague from another area rang me asking for one. This was during 2020 when we were all stressed by the pandemic. Of course, one was posted to her.

Last synod I handed out the pattern and a sample to every parish or ministry unit in the diocese to encourage the knitters to take on this simple ministry. Of course, Bishop Andrew received a purple one!! My aim, in Te Puke, where I visit three rest homes, is to offer every new resident a cross when they move in, and to offer them to family members, especially when a loved one is dying. I do get some of them back after a resident has died but mostly, they go with them.

Then when Cyclone Gabrielle hit in February the knitters in the Bay of Plenty got knitting. We have now sent over 700 knitted

crosses to Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti / Eastland to be given to anyone regardless of age who would like one. This was something we, in this part of the diocese, could do to help.

They are easy to knit in one piece and using either double knit (8 ply) wool or acrylic they are filled with polyester fibre fill (preferably new fill). They vary slightly in size depending on the thickness of the yarn and look slightly odd shaped as this is to allow the hand to hold them easily.

Of course, they are equally useful for little hands to hold as well or to be stuffed in a back pocket of a pair of jeans.... No matter how fragile the faith or whose hand they are in they remind the holder that God is as close to them as that cross is in their hand.

*Reverend Ruth Dewdney (Vicar, Te Puke)*

## Knit or Crochet Your Own Cross

Using double knitting yarn and 4mm needles, cast on 10 stitches

*Knit 28 rows (also known as garter stitch)*

Cast on 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows

*Knit 10 rows*

Cast off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows

*Knit 14 rows*

Cast on 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows (10 stitches)

*Knit 10 rows.*

Cast off the remaining 10 stitches, leaving tail for sewing up

Fold in half, put a small amount of stuffing between the two crosses being sewn together (Don't over-fill – leave it feeling squishy)

For the crochet version, use above instructions, but replace knit (garter stitch) with double crochet)

# Wellington

## Diocesan Social Concerns Day – Eco Church NZ

Our recent Wellington AAW Diocesan Social Concerns Day at St Paul's, Paraparaumu was in conjunction with Eco Church NZ, looking at caring for the planet. Our guest speakers Silvia Purdie and Sonia Groes-Petrie.

Silvia Purdie, our first speaker's, topic was: "How to talk with the kids about the planet." Sylvia, an ordained Presbyterian Minister, author, climate activist, counsellor and supervisor, began by telling us how her work and research led her to write the book "Awhi Mai, Awhi Atu (as we are loved, so we love) - Women in Creation Care".

This is a story of 30 Kiwi women, from diverse cultures and churches, taking practical action for the environment, including our own Rosemary Biss.



*Pictured: Pat Vincent, Sonia Groes-Petrie and Heather Dawson.*

Today's younger generation live in a very different world of social media. Young people are constantly bombarded with gloom and doom about the climate crisis and lack of care for the planet. The big picture can be rather overwhelming.

Today's younger generation live in a very different world of social media. Young people are constantly bombarded with gloom and doom about the climate crisis and lack of care for the planet. The big picture can be rather overwhelming.

We need to tell the stories of our life. God has given us skills to solve problems - often one step at a time. Everything should be underpinned with prayer and hope. Young people often feel the burden of the expectation to fix everything! Many aren't aware that previous generations faced significant problems. We can counteract these feelings of despair, with trust and courage, using past stories as examples. One example is the Suffrage story.

When we talk to young people, remind them that we care; share what motivates us. Resilience comes from knowing they are loved. We should be articulate about our faith. The Bible says trouble before optimism – we have to trust God.

We must pray for our kids – and pray with them. When you pray for a young person in your family, send them a text – with your prayer. This can be very powerful!

Our afternoon speaker was Sonia Groes-Petrie on “Creating communities of hope in the face of the climate crisis.” Sonia has always cared about environmental issues. She is involved with A Rocha (“the rock”) a global family of Christian organisations, who live out God's calling to care for creation. A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand established the Eco Church NZ Project in 2020 - to support churches to care for God's earth as part of their mission.

Projects need to be motivated by positive outcomes, not fear and put God in everything. Hope is present throughout the Bible – in Isaiah, Acts, and Revelation.

We can all do small things to help, such as planting a tree at important times for your family. Living an authentic Christian

life, reflecting and protecting the glory of God, can be turned into action, especially to help the young.

The Eco Church website (<https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/>) has many resources, including 'Getting Started' – a self-assessment tool to help church communities work out their priorities.

Both speakers were very interesting and provided much food for thought.

Instead of 'gifts,' they were each presented with a little tree for planting and a thank you card. There was a retiring collection on behalf of A Rocha.



## **St John's and St Michael's Fashion Parade Fundraiser**

At the end of April our AAW Group held a successful fashion parade fundraiser hosted by Ballantynes Fashion Central in Johnsonville. We sold all 60 tickets to women in our area.

The models represented all areas and ages of our congregation. On the night, the room was full of the buzz of happy, excited

women watching our wonderful models showing off Ballantynes new Autumn/Winter season clothes. Much was brought.

We also had a number of successful raffles, consisting of goods and vouchers from local businesses and our members also contributed groceries and toiletries for the raffle prizes. Some of the money raised (\$400) went to support our AAW Special Project of providing a canteen for the Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School in Fiji. The rest of the money is earmarked for providing for the fit out of a new lounge at our church and other mission areas of need.

*Pat Vincent*

## St Peter's Association of Anglican Women



*Pictured: Esme with Githa Warrington, leader St Peter's AAW Palmerston North, presentation of sewing machine to Red Cross Sewing Project.*

What do you do when you retire? Why, you take on extra work and support a cause. This is what Esme and her husband embarked upon. A new project that took on bigger proportions than they had ever imagined. They became Red Cross volunteers because they wanted to make a difference to the lives of refugee families.

As Palmerston North is a settlement destination, they started a project to help the women to become independent and contribute to their new environment. Here

began the Sewing Machine Project. A very successful journey for both the volunteer and the refugee.

It was this in mind that St Peter's AAW presented the project with a brand-new machine to be gifted to a family in Palmerston North.

Esme spoke to us of her journey, which included collecting the machines, with the help of her daughter using social media, to travelling to Auckland, then down the island collecting machines along the way from places she had never encountered before. With help from some sewing machine mechanics, she has become quite good at simple repairs.

Thank you, Red Cross, for the work you do for our Refugee Community.

## St Mary's AAW Group, Levin



Some years ago, two beautiful banners were created by one of our members, Judy Lund (now sadly deceased). The design was shared between the AAW and Mother's United groups.

The AAW banner shows a tree trunk with its branches stretching up into the sky, with its roots burrowing downwards.

The message is the older ladies being the strong roots of AAW with the younger still growing and reaching out into the future.

Maureen Shailer parades our banner at the Wellington our group hosted.



We sadly no longer have our Mother's United but we are equally proud to display their banner whenever we can.

Knitting is popular within our group, but Mary Buck, one of our members, gave a different perspective in the form of a Lincraft beanie knitting machine (which can also do scarves and squares). Stitches are cast on, with the knitting being done by turning a small handle. One can turn out a beanie in 20 minutes, add a few more minutes for finishing, and bingo, a beautiful hat.

The machine is able to knit different sizes depending upon length. Some of our group knit beanies for the Seafarers hostel in Wellington and others for overseas, to Ukraine, where the need is great.

### **A Celebration of Pentecost**

Worship can be creative: dramatic pageants, beautiful flower arrangements, knitted beanies for seamen or rugs for cold, elderly knees. In our services, ministers wear vestments stitched by skillful





embroiderers, hand-made candlesticks grace our altar and the musicians sing at weekly services.

Often creativity is in the hands of people who are already experts at their craft but at Pentecost the wider congregation were invited to make posters about the relevance of this festival to them.

Many groups took part: some already experienced in design and some participating for the first time. The finished posters were displayed on pillars inside the church.

It was at Pentecost that the apostles received the gift of languages from the Holy Spirit and this inspired our AAW poster which featured greetings in different languages: English, Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Mandarin, French, German and...er...Strine.

*Kia Ora, Talofa, Nihao, Malo e lelei, Bonjour, Hi and Giddy mate.*

## Nelson

### All Saints/Cathedral

In May we hosted an open meeting in the afternoon with Royce Willis from the Dizziness clinic. A very informative talk on vertigo and balance was appreciated by all. In June we were entertained by three tramping friends from our church sharing their adventures and favourite tracks. They had great photos of New Zealand places most of us wouldn't get to without a helicopter, and shared stories of the good and bad experiences of tramping.

*Noeline Curtis*

### Holy Trinity, Richmond

Our meeting in April was an interactive one and the theme was God's love for us is incredible, infinite, and unending.

Each member was given the topic in advance and asked: can you choose one event that has happened in your life that was unexpected, but has given you a deeper understanding of God's love for you? This was one of the most interesting interactive topics we have had. Nine out of 15 members present gave a short presentation. Some were happy events, some were sad, some were unexplainable, and some took great courage to talk about. There was affirmation from most of the speakers that they had felt God's love for them in this event. It was not always immediate, but sometimes on reflection later in their life.

*Jean McConachie*

Members of the Afternoon and Evening groups organised two parish events in May.



On Saturday 6th May they held an afternoon tea to celebrate King Charles Coronation. All were invited and many enjoyed dressing up for the occasion.

Later in the month a fundraising concert was held in the Nelson Cathedral. Colleen Rae-Gerrard, a world-renowned concert pianist who has retired to Nelson and joined our parish. She gave us a selection of light classical music during the first half. The Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus delighted

the audience in the second half. We were delighted with the response.

The Holy Trinity Evening Group held an open meeting for our church to hear one of our retired clergy speak on his trip around the Pacific Islands with Heritage Expeditions. They left from Madang in Papua New Guinea and made their way via Bougainville and the Solomon Islands to finish up at Port Vila in Vanuatu. As well as visiting native reserves and enjoying activities such as snorkelling, they were invited to tribal gatherings on several islands. Gary especially enjoyed the chance to speak to leaders who had been able to go and study business administration, economics etc. and then returned to help their towns and villages set up enterprises.

This was the first tourist ship these islands had seen for three years. The crew was also very international, coming from Finland, Denmark, Russia and the Philippines.

*Jan South*

## **Waimea Fellowship**

On the 23 May we held our yearly community morning tea. The Brightwater Primary School choir sang. They were so good. They then mingled with the guests. We also invited the Waimea Ukulele Group; they were so much fun. The members had made the loveliest morning tea with all home baked food which was enjoyed by all.

We had invited local people with a leaflet drop and invited members from a rest home. They really enjoyed the morning out. All in all, a very successful and enjoyable morning.

*Gladys Hollick Co Leader*

# Christchurch

## Mid and South Canterbury



A wonderful Festival Eucharist and Shared Lunch was held at St Stephen's Church, Ashburton. We were blessed to have the creative input and leadership of two clergy: the Rev Justine Tremewan, our Diocesan AAW Chaplain, and the Venerable Indrea Alexander, Vicar of Ashburton. A special treat was the singing of our AAW Prayer together.

The Service was well attended and a thoroughly joyous occasion, and during lunch afterwards there was excellent friendship building among all the parishes involved.

## North Canterbury



Together we celebrated mid-winter with an AAW party, hosted by the AAW of St John's, Rangiora. A large crowd came and enjoyed the jokes and clever wit of Adrienne Robinson, and many of those present shared their own unique tales. And as for the party food! It was a total feast for the eyes and palate.

## AAW National Executive Members



**Cynthia Prince**  
National President



**Anne Gover**  
Treasurer



**Raewyn Dawson**  
Overseas & Outreach  
Co-ordinator



**Julia Walker**  
Social Concerns  
Co-ordinator



**Sally Butler**  
Secretary



**Margaret Rocard**  
Auckland President



**Pat Vincent**  
Wellington President



**Noeline Curtis**  
Nelson Representative



**Dot Muir**  
Dunedin President

*\*Not pictured, Jude McKenzie, past NZAAW president.*

# Submissions/Subscriptions

Deadline for next issue: 2 February 2024

**Submissions: email to Sally Butler**, Waiapu Circle Team Co-Ordinator  
Email: still\_british\_gurl@hotmail.com

- We are looking for high interest articles that inspire.
- If the group is elderly and the function is mainly a social one, with mutual support – that news is equally important.

## **We need high quality images**

- Large jpeg files (usually at least 1MB or 300 dpi in size).
- Must be emailed as a separate attachment, not inserted into a Word document alongside text.
- No Adobe Photoshop images please.
- If sending multiple images, send individually including a clear description of the image.

Text: 100-150 words (max), to be sent either as an attached MS Word document or within the body of the email.

**Circle Subscription:** (for two copies per year).

**AAW group orders: \$10 per person per year. Please send orders and payments to your Diocesan treasurer.**

## **Individual Orders: \$20 (includes postage and packaging)**

Please send orders to Anne Gover, NZAAW Treasurer,  
Email: annegover@xtra.co.nz, 4 Lennox Street, Gore 9710.  
Include your name, postal address and email addresses.

**Pay by internet banking to Westpac account: 03 0915 0026110 000**  
Ref: Circle, name, address.

# The Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

Formed in 1969 for all Anglican Women to become members – married, divorced or single women.

Prior to this New Zealand Anglican Women were part of Mothers' Union Branches.

The Association of Anglican Women offers a voice and representation to women.

## **Our aims are....**

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

## **Our focus**

To grow and move forward as an organization. We are constantly moving forward, growing and doing all we can to share the message of God's love with others.

## **Spread the Word**

There's no better way to make an impact than to become an active advocate yourself. Join now and enjoy the fellowship, fun and friendship.

## **Join us on Facebook**

(Click  on [www.nzaaw.org.nz](http://www.nzaaw.org.nz))

**NZAAW website:** [nzaaw.org.nz](http://nzaaw.org.nz)

## **Circle Editorial Team**

Cynthia Prince, Noel Hendery, Sally Butler, Belinda Barnhill