

CIRCLE



AAW at
St Stephen's
Church, Nelson



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The Association of
Anglican Women

Nelson Kaleidoscope

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COVERS. Front: *Nelson AAW Festival Pictures, Pelorus River, Limestone Arch Westland, Others- see the stories inside.*
 Back cover: *The Nelson Square.*

CONTRIBUTIONS - Diocesan AAW Groups & 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.

From Diocesan Coordinators - All Copy to - The Editor - Dorothy Brooker - contact details above, right. This includes emailed text - either as an attached single column WORD (not 'Publisher') file, or as text typed straight into your email. **Photos:** Email attached original digital photos (high resolution jpg files) to brookerfamily@xtra.co.nz - or post commercially produced Glossy Prints for scanning (not photocopied - nor produced by desk-jets or laser printers) - to Stephen Brooker, 1/6 Surat Place, Glen Eden, Auckland 0602.

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30 June, 30 September.

From Our President ♦ ♦ ♦

Dear Members,

The first meeting of the year for the Executive was held recently in Wellington. The time was very prayerful and spiritual, and also where a lot was discussed in our meetings as well as socially.

The Diocesan Reports show that we are all working well and I have great admiration for the Christchurch members who are working so hard to support those who have lost so much, and their work will be ongoing. Our prayers are with you all.

We spent some time looking at "The Way Forward" in an effort to increase our membership. A list has been collated and sent to all executive members, who will be sharing these ideas and hopefully implementing some in readiness to report the successes at our next meeting in August.

We must continue to offer invitations to events for the whole congregation with good, topical speakers, of interest to younger women and perhaps this type of meeting can be held several times a year. Advertise your meetings boldly on the Church Notice board and don't forget to use the brochures that have been produced but remember to fill in a contact name.

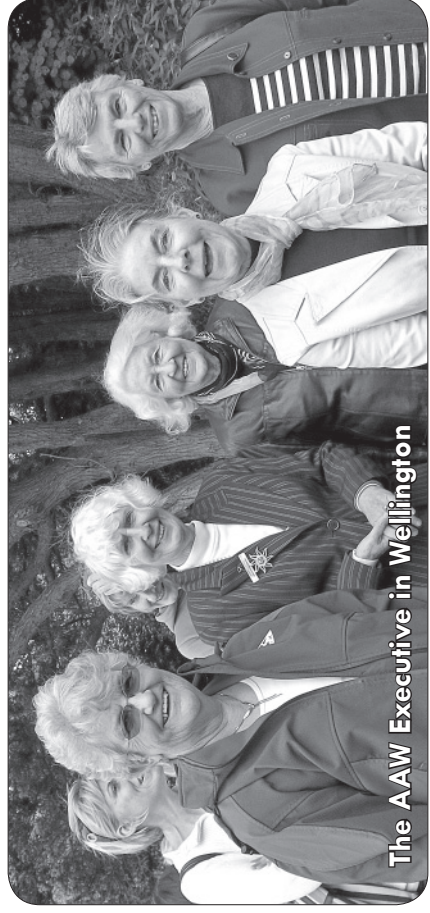
To know Jesus and to make Jesus known.

In closing, the challenge remains for all of us, as quoted by the Revd Dorothy Brooker, in the book "The Gift Endures" - that AAW could be seen as an Association of *Actively Aware Women* relevant to the church and to society. Blessings to you all

Elizabeth



Elizabeth Crawley



The AAW Executive in Wellington

New Journeying

By Richard Ellena, Bishop of Nelson



Some years ago the Diocese of Nelson did a major paradigm shift. It might not seem like very much but to us it felt like a Copernican revolution.

Traditionally the focus of the Anglican Church is the diocese, and vision and ministry emanate from this centre. However we believed that society had changed and the Diocese no longer had the same relevancy or profile outside the major Cathedral centre. But the local church did.

Up-turning the structure

So we turned the structure upside down and decided that each local church would be the focus of vision and ministry and the role of the diocese was there to support that local vision and ministry.

It seemed, for example, a 'no-brainer' that the church in Karamea would have more idea of how to reach the community and minister to the people at the very top of the West Coast of the South Island than we would here in Nelson. This means, of course, that the parish church in Cobden Runanga will look very different to the church in Victory Square in Nelson, which again will look very different to the large church in the centre of Blenheim - and their expressions of Anglicanism will likewise be very different.

Vision and Strategy

It seemed really important to us that our strong biblical faith would be what united us as a diocese - and consequently our expressions of Anglicanism could be very broad and diverse. This has given vibrancy to the Diocese - and keeps the Bishop on his toes when he visits!

The alternative was to have a very narrow expression of our Anglicanism but a broad and diverse theology. We were very determined that that's not where we wanted to go! But it also means that each parish has to be very strategic in developing its own vision and mission because we are very aware that, to paraphrase Proverbs 29:18, 'without vision the people wander aimlessly'.

Yet vision is something that the Anglican Church has never done very well. We might have a vision, but we haven't articulated it clearly or in a way that captures the imagination. And this remains our greatest challenge, as successive census figures show that the Anglican Church continues to decline numerically.

We have had a propensity for jumping on the latest bandwagon in the hope that it might lead to spiritual or numerical growth. But we seem to struggle when it comes to articulating our vision and mission, which surely must come before the implementation of some new programme, no matter how 'missional' it might appear.

This shift of focus away from the Diocese to the local church has also impacted the way we deliver our social services - our practical outworking of faith.

New Directions

Rather than develop a centralised social service agency, we have sought to respond to the needs of the local community through the local church and its networks within the community. It means that we won't have the same profile as a specialised agency, but it does mean that every single person that is committed to the life of the local church will be involved in the outworking of that life within the local community.

It has also led to the re-establishment of Bishopdale Theological College here in Nelson, (one of the earliest Colleges of Theology in New Zealand), as a place where emerging leaders can be trained in the mission of God - as it is expressed in this Diocese.

It's an exciting journey and we are really only beginning to understand the full implications of this paradigm shift. But central to it is 'vision' - a vision that grows out of our commitment to the word of God and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit!

That's Nelson Anglican!!!

+Richard Ellena



My Christian Journey

Sue Truman tells her faith story

My Christian journey started as so many others – Anglican upbringing until I left school to go to University and then, somehow, life got in the way.

When I was 4 years old, I told Mum and Dad I was going to be a pilot when I grew up and when I was 8, I told them I was going to be an engineer. 'Yes Dear' they replied both times. By the time I was 25 I had a Commercial Pilot's Licence and a PhD in Engineering.

There was no time in my very busy life for God. A stellar career followed – one of the first women pilots flying for Air New Zealand, first woman pilot and manager at SafeAir in Blenheim; and then my career in the aerospace industry in Scotland, covering senior management roles in Project Management, Flight Operations, Customer Support and finally, my ideal job – Managing Director of British Aerospace's Flight Training business, training ab-initio pilots for a number of the world's major airlines.

Sue Truman

Sue is a parishioner of Christ Church Cathedral Nelson. She is a member of Vestry and assists with the administration of Communion at the main Sunday service.

A skilled musician and talented artist, Sue works in her studio creating many beautiful works in glass.

I have often wondered since if this was all part of God's plan for me and my life, because by early 1997 I was struggling. There were days when I could hardly drag myself out of bed to go to work. I couldn't read anything longer than a page and spent whole days shuffling the contents of my in-tray, only to reshuffle everything again the next day. I still managed to cover up the fact that there was something wrong – I had no idea what was happening to me.

In May of 1997 I was eventually diagnosed with acute clinical depression and started on antidepressants. I became cold-bloodedly suicidal, was referred to a psychiatrist and very quickly ended up in hospital in a state of almost total collapse. Life became a huge struggle. I remained depressed, and after almost two years on paid sick leave I accepted early retirement on health grounds with a full pension.

Throughout this whole time, I was wonderfully supported by many people in the congregation at Holy Trinity who had never known me when I was well. Supporting someone in the depths of depression can be frustratingly hard work, but their love and care for someone they hardly knew was unwavering. Although I was too ill to recognise it at the time, it was an obvious demonstration of true Christian love.

After six long years of ill health I finally recovered to a new self and a new life. Through this I have discovered artistic talents I never knew I had. I am putting these to good use as a glass artist – a far cry from my high flying (literally and figuratively) career. Now I have time for friends and family, and just to be myself. I am sure this is all part of God's plan for me. And if I ever needed dramatic proof that God still has things for me to accomplish in this life, I was very fortunate in January to survive what could easily (and should probably) have been a fatal road accident.

I only wish God would tell me what it is I am supposed to do, but I am sure all will become clear in the fullness of time.

The Awakening

In 1996, some 26 years after I had become too busy for God, the strangest thing happened to me. I literally awoke one morning aware of an overwhelming compulsion to reconnect with my Christian faith. I tried to ignore it as the 80 hour weeks I was working only allowed time for working, eating and sleeping; certainly not time to go to church! However I realised that I could not ignore this insistent pull which was far stronger than me. I started visiting the local Christian book shop and read voraciously. That was how I began to find my way back into the Christian faith. I joined Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church in Ayr, and was made very welcome by the people there.





Greetings from Nelson Youth

From Luke Shaw, Youth Coordinator

We as Youth Leaders, look forward to working and sharing with young people and young adults. They are part of who we are, as a diocese. To this end, we have identified three areas of mission as part of our Youth Ministry:

Support, Resource, Encourage

We aim to support, resource and encourage our parishes and youth leaders as they seek to grow their youth and young adult ministries. The landscape across the Nelson Diocese has changed over the last five - ten years.

Once we may have had a number of strong youth groups and ministries happening, but in today's social climate it can be a real challenge to establish and grow a sustainable youth ministry.

However, over the past year we've seen a number of our groups experience growth. It has been exciting to see some new initiatives kick off as well. We'll look forward to seeing what forms up from here on.

Search

We look to encourage and support and to find people with a passion to be Youth leaders.

Our youth have so much to offer our church. So we are working on a couple of projects to help our potential and existing leaders flourish and grow into all they can be, as they put their hand up for leadership.

We have a number of training days penned in for this year with some youth ministry legends, as well as a young leader's development group and a possible leaders' camp taking shape at the moment.

Youth Unit

Our Youth Unit looks forward to an exciting time planned to strengthen our regional youth networks - and run a few cracker events as well. We have four regions within our Diocese, each with their own unique characteristics, so part of our vision for this year is to see our networking strengthen, so we can better support each other and also to come together once or twice a year to get the bigger picture of all that's going on collectively.

Some of the highlights will be the annual Spring Camp, where youth and leaders gather for one big weekend of fun to compete for the regional bishops' log (the coolest trophy ever), and we also assist with running Game-a-palooza, a guys gaming and paint ball event.

Our website - youth@nelsonanglican.org.nz - is now up and running and filled with all the info you've read here and more, so please feel free to drop in on us and take a look - We so appreciate your continued prayers and support. *Thanks!*

Luke Shaw



A Christian Response to a Community in Crisis

On November 19, 2010 our small community on the West Coast was rocked to the core. The impact of the explosion at 3.44 pm at the Pike River Coal Mine that claimed 29 lives continues to be felt deep within our community. How can the Christian community respond to the wider community in such a time of crisis?

Christians are already involved in their communities so that when there is a crisis, they are part of the teams involved in helping. During the Pike River tragedy there were many Christians from many different denominations who were already members of the various support services (e.g. Red Cross, Police, Work Place Support, etc) and I am sure the combination of skills and faith made a difference.

Secondly, it is important for the Church to do what only it can do. During the Pike River tragedy this involved creating sacred space for private and communal prayer and mourning. Holy Trinity Anglican and St. Patrick's Catholic churches were open every day from early morning until late at night for any folk to come and light a candle, pray and/or cry. We held community services and vigils at Holy Trinity Church each evening after the explosion until we knew the final outcome of the 29. These services were led by various ministers from our community.

The Mawhera Minister's Association took the lead in planning the National Remembrance Service which provided an important space for the community and nation as a whole to grieve.

Christians reach out with the practical love of Christ during a community crisis. I was proud of the Christians in our community as I saw them baking, listening to distressed folk, hugging those overcome with grief, and praying.

Our response at our moment of crisis was truly a thing of beauty as in unity we sought (and continue to seek) to bring the love and comfort of Christ to our hurting community.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Revd Marge Tefft, Vicar, Greymouth and Kumara Anglican Parish



Overseas and Outreach

By Convenor, Robyn Hickman —C

The Nelson Diocesan AAW has the focus in this edition of Circle - their allocated Mission area is Egypt.

The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis, Bishop of the Episcopal/ Anglican Diocese of Egypt sent his Lenten update to Rosemary Mellisop, via Bishop Eaton. Some excerpts from his letter dated 12th March 2011 are included.

"Dear Friends, Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We thank you for your continuous prayer and support to us in this difficult time. As we started the season of Lent, we are reminded by the power of prayer and fasting. It is a time to remember that prayer can move mountains . . .

"Egypt's economic situation is going down-hill because of the many demonstrations and the cessation of work in many factories and companies. The stock market is still closed. This has resulted in severe unemployment and subsequent poverty. Last week the Diocese helped 870 poor families with food packages. Our prayers requests are:

- ✠ For the re-establishment of trust between the people and the police to achieve security in the streets and to combat violence.
- ✠ Wisdom and grace for the new transitional government in order to stop the economic deterioration of the country, to bring order, and to ensure the rights of citizenship for all Egyptians (Christians and Muslims alike.)
- ✠ Workers in Community Development Centres involved in providing food packages for the poor. (This includes Boulcot where Madam Ansaf lives.)
- ✠ The Revd Hamdy in Tripoli, Libya: for his safety and the safety of the church members; for stability in the country.

✠ The Revd Matthew Anderson (priest at Alexandria School of Theology) and his family as he lost his 38 year old brother in a car accident in USA.

I have also received a letter from Jolene in Egypt who thanks AAW ladies for their donation and prayers. Jolene is now living with an Arabic (Jordan-Syrian) family and finds this has helped with her language studies. Jolene is also building relationships with young teenagers at the girls' meetings, she has been asked to help with the Puppet Team, plays basketball at a local school, and visits women and families. With Arabic lessons 5 times a week, basketball twice a week - and music and visiting, she keeps pretty busy.

Water Tanks in Fiji. Progress has been made here, with the Anglican Mission Board releasing the first payment to Fiji. Two villages near Suva have been selected as pilot projects for the Water Tank development. At long last your wonderful efforts to raise these funds is about to benefit those without safe water.

Many thanks!



Mothers' Union

By Rosemary Bent

This year's Mothers' Union theme is Faithful Relationship and the worldwide nature of that relationship has been very real in the days following the devastating earthquake in Christchurch, with e-mails of loving concern and assurance of prayer coming from Australia, the South Pacific, Rwanda in Africa, the West Indies, UK and America.

Pam Ferry, the Waikato/Taranaki Diocesan President and Virginia Wells the Provincial Secretary/Treasurer, attended the USA Mothers Union 2010 Conference, this link noted in the message from USA Provincial President Phyllis Comes.

MU here has sent \$500 to the Mothers' Union in Australia to assist after the terrible damage caused by floods, cyclone and bush fires. The appeal had only just got under way when the need for Christchurch became apparent so was not quite as much as was hoped for.

The Bible is full of accounts of faithful relationships starting in Genesis and ending in the Revelation, and these are seen in by each one of us in our contacts with God, family and friends. One expression of this was a lovely card from a friend in England who told us she is praying through her address book as part of her Lenten discipline. We usually exchange Christmas and Easter greetings so it was touching to receive this message from her.

Plans are under way for the Provincial Conference to be held in New Plymouth from 17 to 19 June. The theme of the Conference is Stepping Out – in Obedience, in Unity and in Trust. Guest speakers include Archdeacon Tricia Carter, Kaye Healy, the Australian MU Parenting Programme convenor, Jan Lockett-Kay, Head of Faculty – Humanities at the Western Institute of Technology speaking on Leadership, and Archdeacon Jenny Dawson is leading our Bible study on the theme.

News from Mary Sumner House includes the growing concern about the commercial pressures which encourages materialism which has a negative affect on children's wellbeing, family life and peer relationships. In particular sexualised marketing aimed at children is abhorrent. The Mothers Union Buy Childhood campaign is a way of bringing awareness and change. Reg Bailey, the MU CEO has been asked by the British Government to chair a review looking at the commercialization and premature sexualisation of children, which is due to report back in May. To find out more visit www.byebuychildhood.org.

We are also asked to be faithful in giving. Most of the money raised for the MU programmes around the world is provided by the members in UK and Ireland. Due to the recession some members are finding this difficult. Travel Grants for overseas workers have been cut back by as much as 70% and there



'Faithful Relations' Commonwealth Service, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland, with the Dean and a visiting Welsh MU Member.'

have been cutbacks at Mary Sumner House. As a way of fund raising, three staff members had a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro. To back their bid the Diocese of York sponsored a walk up Yorkshire's highest peak, Roseberry Topping. So far over ten thousand pounds has been raised for the travel grants.

Social Concerns

Eileen Imlach

Social Concerns diocesan conveners have continued to respond well to my newsletters, and to action items in the National Council of Women's Newsletter "The Circular". I really appreciate their support and input in this manner, but am also aware of the contributions they make in their own groups and branches. It proves the old saying "if you want something done ask a busy person"

The Alcohol Law Reform Bill has not surprisingly generated a large amount of interest, discussion and action by members. I was delighted when one group wrote to tell me about how they attend council meetings "until asked to leave". I gather they were attending since they were concerned about local issues relating to alcohol about which they felt strongly.

Sadly, so many important issues we have been dealing with over the last few months fade into insignificance, when we think of our AAW Sisters in Christchurch and also now the people of Japan.

'Social Concerns' will continue to monitor, make submissions and make our voices heard on issues affecting our homes families, that our country may be a safe and better land, God willing. Blessings!



International Women's Day

From Dorothy Brooker

A message for International Women's Day 2011 from Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director, UN Women, was shared at the NCW breakfast in Napier on 12th March. This has relevance for all women who have a real concern for women and children - and especially for our Association since that is expressed in our Aims. Her message has been abridged to allow me to share, but you can find the whole message by contacting your local NCW President.

Michelle says, "A hundred years ago today, the world took an historic step on the long road to equality. The first ever International Women's day was called to draw attention to the acceptable and often dangerous working conditions that so many women faced worldwide.

Although the occasion was celebrated in only a handful of countries, it brought over one million women out on to the streets, demanding not just better conditions at work but also the right to vote, to hold office and to be equal with men. I suspect these courageous pioneers would look at our world today with a mixture of pride and disappointment.

There has been remarkable progress, as the last century has seen an unprecedented expansion of women's rights and entitlements. Indeed the advancement of women's rights can claim to be one of the most profound social revolutions the world has seen.

One hundred years ago, only two countries allowed women to vote. Today that right is virtually universal and women have been elected to lead Governments in every continent, and women hold office in positions and professions from which they once were banned. Today two-thirds of countries have specific laws that penalise domestic violence and the UN Security Council now recognise sexual violation as a deliberate tactic of war.

Kate
Shepherd



But despite this progress the hopes of equality expressed in that first gathering are a long way from being realised. Almost two out of three illiterate adults are women. Girls are still less likely to be at school. Every 90 seconds of every day a woman dies in pregnancy or due to childbirth related complications despite having the knowledge and resources available to make birth safe.

Across the world women continue to earn less than men for the same work. In many countries too, they have unequal access to land and inheritance rights. And despite high-profile advances, women still make up only 19% of legislatures, 8% of peace negotiators, and only 28 women are heads of state or Government.

It is not just women who pay the price for this discrimination. We all suffer for failing to make the most of half the world's talent and potential. We undermine the quality of our democracy, the strength of our economics, the health of our societies and the sustainability of peace. This year's focus of International Women's day on women's equal access to education, training, science and technology underscores the need to tap this potential. The goal of this new body which I have the privilege to lead is to galvanise the entire UN system so that we can deliver on the promise of the UN Charter of equal rights for men and women. It is something I have fought for my whole life.

As Executive Director of UN Women, I want to use my journey and the collective knowledge and experience all around me to encourage progress towards true gender equality across the world. We will work in close partnership, with men and women, leaders and citizens, civil society, the private sector, and the whole UN system to assist countries to roll out policies, programmes, and budgets to achieve this worthy goal.

I have seen myself what women, often in the toughest circumstances, can achieve for their families and societies if they are given the opportunity. The strength, industry and wisdom of women remain humanity's greatest untapped resource. We simply cannot afford to wait another 100 years to unlock this potential."

Perhaps this would be a good topic for Social Concerns discussion? - Editor

It is a pleasure to see former New Zealand AAW President Rosemary Atkins produce a new book, now due to be released. It is one bound to have wide appeal especially to AAW members and their friends, grandmothers or not. Rosemary and Bishop Peter Atkins have two treasured grand-daughters.

'A Grandmother Prays' breathes the love and peace Rosemary gains from her unwavering faith that God listens to our prayers and acts on our behalf. As with Rosemary's other popular books, the conversational-style prayers encourage readers to think carefully and by including their personal names and circumstances make the prayers their own.

Gathered from a lifetime of experiences Rosemary's prayers cover all aspects of daily life, our thanks, our weaknesses, our strains and sorrows, our caring, our concerns, our anxieties, our joys. It is Rosemary's hope that these prayers may strengthen our faith for life's journey and bring us peace and love.

'A Grandmother Prays' is a book that would be a companion to go to from time to time for reassurance and comfort. Here is an excerpt from one of the prayers 'for herself'.

"Loving God help me to relax and rest,
knowing that your care for me never ceases
in darkness or in light.
May your Holy Angels guard me through the night
and guide me through the day
so that your presence is always with me."

(This beautifully presented book is illustrated with designs by Olivia Jackson-Mee, and is available at an introductory price of \$22.50 from Pleroma Press, email: order@pleroma.org.nz or free-phone: 0508 988 988. OR from Rosemary Atkins, email: peter.rosemary@xtra.co.nz or phone: 09 575 4775.)



Celebrating the Spirit within

People are gifts which the Creator God sends to us ...wrapped.
Some come wrapped very beautifully, some in very ordinary paper.
Some persons are very loosely wrapped, others very tightly.
Sometimes the gift has been mishandled in the mail.

Once in a while there is a special delivery.

Some person gifts are very easy to open up; others need to be helped out of their boxes.
It is because they are afraid, afraid to be hurt if opened.
Maybe they have been opened before and been thrown away!

I am a person. I am a gift too, a gift to myself first of all.

God my Creator gave myself to me.

Have I really looked inside the wrapping? Am I afraid to?

Perhaps I have never accepted the gift I am.

And yet, could God's gift be anything but beautiful.

I love the gifts that those who love me, give me. Why not the gift of me?

I am a gift to other people when I am willing to be given to others, to be a person for others.

Every time we meet another person we exchange a gift.

Love is a relationship between persons who see themselves as they really are:

Gifts given by God to be given to others.

Rejoice daughters of God

Celebrate the life within you

And Christ's presence in your midst.

Let your eyes be opened, so that the

Present will have new meaning

And the future be bright with hope

Rejoice daughters of God

Bow your heads before the one who is our

Wisdom and strength

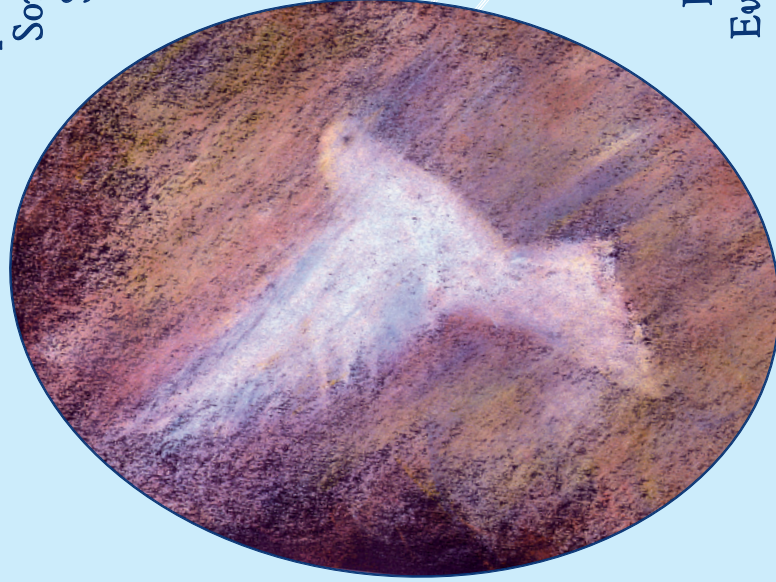
And as you place yourself before our God

Know that we are touched and cleansed

by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Author
unknown.

- Adapted and used
from 'In other Words' by
Dorothy Brooker
and others.



Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasefika and from N through Z



Diocese of Polynesia



AAW Members in Fiji and Tonga are looking forward to Elizabeth's visit in June. They are all very excited to have two of the water tanks nearly ready for use.

In Auckland, Holy Trinity Parish and 'Ofa kihe Laumalie Ma'oni'oni Parochial District had a combined AAW service on AAW Sunday, 6 February at Otahuhu, Auckland. Standing in the middle is the Ven 'Amanaki Tu'itavake, Archdeacon of Polynesia in Aotearoa New Zealand. On his right is the new interim Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, the Revd Margot Postleweight.



The preacher was the Rev. Eleanor Mancini who talked not only about the first Tongan AAW established in Auckland, but also of the partnership of these two parishes. The two AAW banners are shown from the back row.



Diocese of Auckland

Christchurch visitors to the **St Aidan's Remuera** AAW group. Members

were pleased to welcome to their March Fellowship meeting, Mrs Rae Allpress, who was staying with her sister, the Revd Jeny Terrell, and Jack and Jan Harris, parents of the Revd Craig Harris.



They were visiting Auckland following the second Christchurch earthquake, all coming from St Stephen's Church in Shirley, which was badly damaged in this 'quake.'

St Stephen's Whangaparaoa AAW group took on a project last year which had originated in Canada with an internet web site www.shawlinministry.com. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is quite a large organisation, particularly where it began in North America. Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it on to someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!

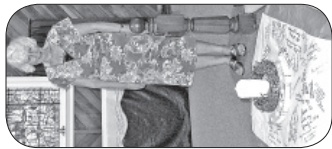
Our members agreed to send shawls to Christchurch for Pamela Ash to oversee distribution through her AAW group. We have, this month, sent 15, with a baby shawl and two layettes donated by a parishioner and the needles are clicking knitting up more for the winter months ahead. Big needles, thick wool and an easy pattern make for speedy knitting. They really look lovely and are greatly appreciated.

St Andrew's Parish in Glen Eden held an event to raise funds for Christchurch. This was a resounding success, over 120 people having enjoyed a delicious barbecue meal prepared by church members. Local businesses including the Mad Butcher Glen Eden and New World New Lynn, were generous sponsors. Live entertainment was provided by young 'Westies', singing by the Acorn Academy choir and dancing by the Junior Cabaret Troupe; both groups regularly use St Andrew's Hall. There were raffles, games for the children and competitions for young and old. Donated goods and services covered expenses, allowing the whole \$1500 raised to be sent directly to the Bishop's Support Fund in Christchurch. *Debbie Penk.*



St John's Royal Oak. This small AAW Morning Fellowship hosted an afternoon-tea on Saturday 19 March 2011 in the Berry Hall. A lovely afternoon with good weather, good food, good attendance, great fellowship and a chance to learn some interesting and entertaining details of the life and times of guest speaker, Bishop John Paterson. The gathering raised a koha of \$133 for the AAW Emergency Fund.

In March, the **Warkworth AAW Coffee Group** hosted members of other women's organisations in the district. We were thrilled to have representation from Lions, Women's Institute, Methodist and Catholic churches participate in the service entitled 'Compassion (International Concerns)'



Our AAW hymn began the service with the procession of the Auckland Banner. Symbols of our Lenten Journey were lighting a candle and presenting the cross. After four readings we were invited to write prayers of particular concern on the tablecloth. Remaining members sang the Taize chant 'O Lord, hear my prayer.' The service was beautiful and all attending were so happy. Elaine Steel gave a brilliant speech on WCA and Palestine. Lunch, hosted by our Group, was served in the Parish Lounge. Our ladies felt this was a great way for different faiths and organisations to share.

St James Mangere Bridge Ladies Fellowship. Members began the year by having a "catch-up" meeting in February, trimming stamps for Missions while chatting over lunch. As our March meeting coincided with "Brain Week" we included some brain teasers in the meeting. Although we are a small group of 7, we enjoy friendship and fellowship in each other's company.

On the Hauraki Plains, our new minister, Alofa Asiata Alofa, (a "Kiwi Samoan") here since February, has been settling in to Cooperating Parish life, which is always hectic!

The Women's Fellowship group at **St. Johns, Campbells Bay** has enjoyed our long summer. We gathered for an informal morning tea in the lovely garden of our secretary, Olive Downes, and enjoyed a very interesting talk by Principal Vicki Hookings of the Andrea Mwaka School in Tanzania. A "foot workshop" was run by the Revd Isabel Mordecai, (also our parish nurse) and a member who is a retired physiotherapist. We had a talk about feet and how hard they work, given advice on their care - and were able to soak be pampered in one of the foot spas that Isabel and a friend had made available - all pristinely disinfected between users. The morning was a great success and we look forward to another "workshop" later this year.....on hands, perhaps.



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Diocese of Waiapu

AAW Women help in all Manner of Ways: Despite advances in knowledge of the causes of 'Sudden Unexpected Death' in infancy, Maori babies still die at higher rates than others. Smoking in pregnancy and bed sharing are two of the highest risk factors for babies.

The Wahakura project is a response to this problem, guided by Dr. Tipene-Leach and a Maori weaver kuia, Nanny Whaipooti Hitchiner. In Tairāwhiti (Gisborne), through monthly courses, as a long-time AAW member and Public Health Nurse, I work with midwives, mothers-to-be and whanau (families) to share health information, and help them to provide safe sleeping environments

for their babies by making their own wahakura. (flax bassinets) Mothers are able to put their babies in the wahakura in the parent's bed for safe sleeping, an appropriate, practical solution to a significant issue.

As a young mother I made and used a flax basinette for my son, Edward, 27 years ago. In my work I have heard many stories of how women have used wahakura in earlier times. *Catharine White.*

Hawke's Bay Regional AGM, 2 April 2011. Members from as far away as Dannevirke in Southern Hawke's Bay attended the AGM held on the first Saturday in April at St Luke's Church in Napier. Our morning speaker was Barbara Mawson, a practising physiotherapist who spoke of her experience last year, when, as a volunteer, she visited Myanmar (Burma) to update the skills of the local physiotherapists, who had not had opportunities for professional development for many years.

Barbara gave us an insight into the trials that the local people experience under a dictatorship, but also was enthusiastic about the people and the beautiful countryside. Despite the fact that Barbara finds the humidity and heat exhausting, she has returned to Myanmar for a further short teaching visit. Following a shared lunch, the Revd. Trevor Harrison chaired our AGM and led us in Worship. *Chris Wheeler, Regional Secretary.*



Diocesan Chaplain Farewelled. The Revd Bronwyn Marchant was farewelled by her own parish AAW members, St George's, Gate Pa, at a fun outing to Te Puna, Quarry Park. Bronwyn was given a beautiful stole, designed and made by Esther Mark from Otumoetai.

The stole is unique, being reversible, and thus suitable for all liturgical seasons. One side is cream silk with purple and green bands and the other, red. Both sides have embroidered symbols of New Zealand to remind Bronwyn of home. She takes up her new parish in Australia's Newcastle Diocese this May.

Elizabeth Fahey, St George's Gate Pa.

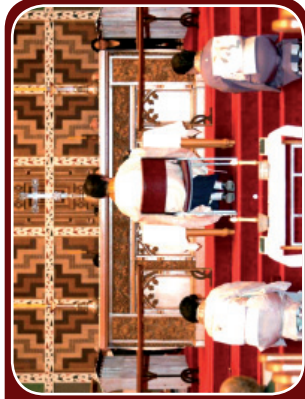
The appalling disaster in Japan has not been overlooked. As we remembered our Brothers and Sisters in Christchurch, Waiapu Cathedral



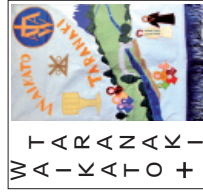
"Aunty Alys" with Manaaki Wiremu at Te Matatini o te Ra Festival in Gisborne, 2011.



Left: Fujiko Ikegami, Mihoko Iko, Kinuko Iko prepare to lead the service with Dean Helen Jacobi and Robert Arrell from the Japan Society. Right: Buddhist prayers being offered.
Tony Speakman, Photos



paused to remember also, those who are suffering in Japan. 300 people gathered for a service on April 1st, offering support and love, praying in the traditions of both Christians and Buddhists.



Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

The AAW Diocesan Executive enjoyed a lunch break under the shade trees in beautiful grounds at St Luke's, Te Kuiti, on a hot February day. Members had travelled from the four corners of the Diocese, Katikati, Hamilton, Taumarunui and New Plymouth, as well as from the central towns of Matamata, Te Awamutu, Otorohanga and Te Kuiti. Absent on the day was the member from Cambridge.



The Diocesan AAW Secretary Sandy Slater, President, Elizabeth Hayes and Treasurer Margaret Carmichael (seated) display the recently enhanced AAW banner to acknowledge the name change of the Diocese to Waikato and Taranaki.

Among many other topics discussed was the AGM, to be held in New Plymouth at the Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary on the weekend of 28th-29th May 2011. This year, the programme will include visiting places of interest and a dinner, with a social evening to follow.

On Tuesday, March 28 2011, the Taranaki Archdeaconry Link's AGM was held in St Chad's Church, Westown, New Plymouth. Although four AAW groups were represented, disappointingly only twenty members were present.

A Taize Service was held, led by licensed lay minister Evelyn Froom, the St Chad's AAW leader. This was indeed a great way to begin this time together - a wonderful way to worship our Lord and Saviour. (Evelyn also leads a Taize Service monthly at St Chad's.) The meeting which followed was chaired by the Revd Debbie Garrett, Vicar of West New Plymouth.

Following the meeting, Pam King spoke of her role as Diocesan Social Concerns Coordinator; Mary Needs Circle Coordinator and Publicity Officer, explained her role too. A time of fellowship was enjoyed during lunch.

St Chad's AAW members are knitting '**Slippers with Soul**' for the people of Christchurch to help keep their feet warm and cosy this winter. If your group would like to do the same, the pattern can be obtained on-line at www.sydneycare.org.au The idea is to slip them into a snap lock bag with a note "knitted with love by (your group's name) and post them to - Anglican Care, PO Box 4438, Christchurch. Alternatively, you may obtain copy of the pattern from Judith Megaw, 12 Poplar Grove, Whalers Gate, New Plymouth 4310.

MU 'Mother Church' totally destroyed

Holy Trinity, Avonside, Christchurch, the 'Mother Church' of the Mothers' Union in New Zealand was damaged in the first earthquake on 4 September 2010 and then totally destroyed by the second disastrous earthquake on 22 February 2011. This historic church is where the first branch of the MU was established outside England in 1886 by the wife of the then Vicar, Canon Pascoe, only ten years after it was initiated in Old Airstord, England by Mary Sumner, wife of Bishop Sumner.

The original Church built of cob in 1857 was the first church consecrated by Bishop Harper in the Diocese of Christchurch. It was held on the day of the "Feast of Matthias". A new stone church was built over the cob one with a further stone extension added in 1876.

Elsie Sanders, an AAW member of Holy Trinity, managed to retrieve the two very old MU banners as well as the AAW banner and has them in her safe keeping. Office staff saved the "Stations of the Cross" symbols and the Communion vessels are safe, apart from some minor damage.

Because of the extensive damage, the Church will be de-consecrated in the near future, as it is not able to be repaired. It is planned to save Totara posts and interior framing from the church when demolished



Still standing is the beautiful lime-green, five metre high Gingkho tree, planted by the Association of Anglican Women in 1986, to commemorate 100 years of MU in New Zealand.

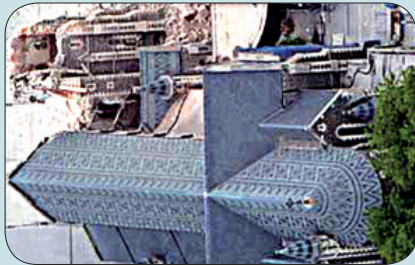
It is sad that this historic building, erected by our early settlers and lovingly nurtured for many years by many generations of faithful parishioners, has been lost forever. *Jan Deavall*

Diocese of Christchurch

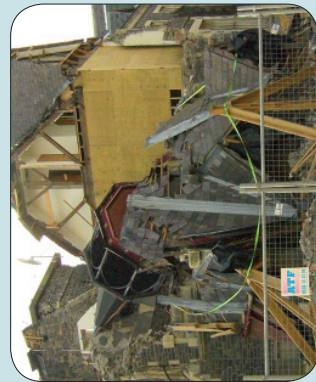
Earthquake. Our lovely city of Christchurch is again in tatters after yet another devastating earthquake on 22 February. Although lower in magnitude than the first on 4 September 2010, it did more wide-spread extensive damage, including rock falls in the hill side suburbs. Both quakes were not very deep with some experts saying they were among the worst in the world. However, some areas especially the suburb that I live in, suffered extensive desecration in the first quake and more in the second.

Fortunately, some suburbs to the north-west of Christchurch suffered very little with only household breakages and loss of power for a short time. With several thousand after-shocks, the nerves of many are shattered as they have had to live without power, water and sewerage. Hundreds of port-a-loos scattered around the streets are stark reminders that all is not well with our fragile sewage system. Friends living a couple of streets away from our home had 90 tonnes of silt shifted from their average sized section. For some residents the liquefaction and dirt along their completely gutted streets are real burdens.

Particularly shattering is the destruction to our Cathedral, other large churches, and our heritage buildings. Numerous Anglican churches have been extensively damaged and there is some doubt about all them being replaced. Other temporary worship centres have had to be found. *Jan Deavoll*



Earthquake update, May 2011 - AAW and Church in action



The lifting of the cordon around part of the Central City enabled us to see areas off-limits since 22 February 22nd. This tranquil scene of the Avon River at the Montreal St. Bridge contrasts starkly with the devastating sight of Cranmer Courts Apartments, where one of our members had her home.



The most generous gift of \$10,000.00 from the Selwyn Foundation to AAW Christchurch is to aid recovery of our older members and others they know of. Some issues addressed are: health and safety, preparedness, confidence, travel, morale, enabling groups to retain their identity in Parishes and as a Diocese, patronage of businesses which are re-establishing themselves, and supporting the continuation of all the Outreach which AAW has always carried out.



Items, such as; mini column heaters, battery-powered radios and lamps, air fragrance diffusers, knee rugs, bed socks have been purchased and are available at Diocesan occasions, or through a printed order form, if confidentiality is preferred.

Damage to sewers has left many of our members having to resort to using toilets of the garden, chemical or port-a-loo varieties. Hot water cylinders, whether braced to the wall or not, do not take kindly to earthquakes either. If leaks are not discovered until days or weeks later unpleasant odours mildew and dampness linger long after repair.

Alison Kinraid gladly receives fragrance diffusers given to remedy this situation.



Sylvia Langridge, who turns 90 in July, is better prepared, with a mini oil column heater safely near her chair. (Radiant heaters and candles are



a danger in earthquakes) Should the power go off, she has a battery-powered pocket radio and lantern, a knee rug, and cosy bed socks. Since February she's kept her television on the floor. *Adrienne Robinson*

Our Diocesan AGM scheduled to take place on 25 February was cancelled. Several AAW groups have had to find other venues for fellowship. On 19 March a Leaders gathering was held at **St Peter's, Upper Riccarton**. Members enjoyed the fellowship and sharing of matters pertaining to their groups as well as "earthquake stories".

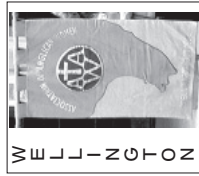
At St Mary's, Timaru, members knitted colourful blankets for the Hamlin Charitable Hospitals in Ethiopia.



Trish Cook, our new Diocesan Overseas and Outreach Convener, took her first Diocesan O&O meeting on the morning of 31 March. It was held in the

lovely warm atmosphere of St James' church hall in Burnside. Sophia Sinclair, who is the Communications Officer for CMS, spoke of time in Cambodia with a CMS Encounter team of six.

A great outpouring of help has come from all over New Zealand. Would you believe it, some schools in Auckland even had a red-and-black mufti day, raising thousands of dollars for Canterbury, while in Hastings area a group of schools provided generous gift boxes for every family in a school here with 335 students! The generosity has been absolutely amazing!



Diocese of Wellington

AAW Sunday celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Paul. What a wonderful start to our AAW year we had with our annual service at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, to mark AAW Sunday, coincidentally on Waitangi Day this year.

The service started off with a proud procession of our group's banners, following Janice Viles, our President, with our diocesan banner. The Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Reverend Frank Nelson welcomed us all and we enjoyed beautiful singing from the cathedral choir. Archdeacon Elizabeth Body preached the sermon and Janice Viles and Perdita Bentall, Diocesan Mothers' Union President, contributed to the service. Afterwards we shared a lovely meal in the Loaves and Fishes Cafe, (the cathedral hall) and had a chance to catch up with our members from all over our diocese.

Shrove Tuesday Tossers. The sun was shining, the footpath cleared, the race-course marked and spectators' chairs lined the course. Competitors from Prayers and Squares, Somerset Rest Home, the local Catholic Church, local kindy, parishioners of St Andrew's Plimmerton, and some local businesses in costumes all gathered for the annual "Tossing of the Pancake" races on Shrove Tuesday. This is a load of fun, where members of AAW help not only by making pancakes but also by participating in the races! Mothers' Union member, Archdeacon Jenny Dawson (Vicar of Pauatahanui) was the starter for each race and encouraged people to cheer for their team. The children were surprisingly great tossers, managing to get most of their pancakes back in the pans.

New AAW Banner for All Saints' Otaki. Banner maker, Margaret Tews writes: After having some discussions at our monthly meetings regarding making an AAW banner, I was offered a Quilt Block pattern book entitled " Symbols of Faith". The cover on the book, a picture of a brown wooden cross with a radiant stained glass look, using bright colours, inspired me with a design for the banner.



After sharing this design and some possible fabric samples with the All Saints' Group, we decided to go ahead with the sewing and quilting of the AAW banner. Its base colour is blue and the lettering is gold/yellow.

It was an honour and privilege to prayerfully stitch and sew this banner. It was completed shortly before the AAW Diocesan Day at the cathedral, where it was paraded for the first time. The special guest for this occasion was the Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, Rosemary Kempbell, making it indeed a special occasion for the banner's first showing.

A slice and a half! (A Special Slice? A Memorable slice? A Slice in memory? Or just "Sally's Slice!") Anne Carpenter writes: At the MU lunch in March, when Ursula Kopp from Mary Sumner House spoke to us, I took along some Apricot Slice which was much enjoyed. It was suggested I send the recipe to Circle. What makes this slice special is that I was given the recipe by Sally Tonkin, past Waikato AAW Diocesan President and the last MU Liaison Officer within the AAW. Sally worked very hard before the 1998 MU World Conference in establishing the link of MU and AAW with the Worldwide MU. Our happy arrangement now is largely due to the work Sally did, mostly by fax, as email was not widely used then.

It will be three years this May since Sally died from Motor Neurone Disease. A woman to give thanks for - enjoy her slice. Here is her recipe:

Apricot Slice Sally Tonkin's recipe

- Melt 125 grm butter and 75 grm brown sugar.
- Add half a tin sweetened condensed milk.
- 1-1.5 pkts crushed Guide or plain biscuits.
- .75 cup of cut up dried apricots.
- Put in buttered Swiss roll tin and into fridge until set.
- Cut into small pieces and keep covered in fridge.

Dying for an AAW Diocesan web page? We have one - AAW Wellington

Diocese is about to celebrate nearly a year of technological achievement by way of a regularly updated web page to be found on the Anglican Diocese of Wellington website: www.anglican.nz Use 'mission' on the drop-down screen to find the AAW web page. Currently, this page shows:

- ◆ information about AAW . . . our prayer and aims
- ◆ contact names and numbers for diocesan and group leaders
- ◆ upcoming dates and events
- ◆ ideas and encouragement for group meetings
- ◆ a prayer for Christchurch.

The page is visited very regularly not only by our members but also by those who choose to see what AAW is about.

*No reira waiho ko te Aroha o Te Matua Kaha Rawa hei korowai mou.
May the love of Almighty God enfold you.*

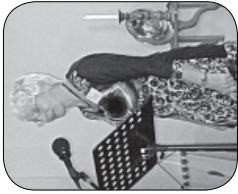


Diocese of Nelson

The Audrey Landels Rose Bowl Competition. Audrey Landels was a parishioner of Nelson Cathedral, a very early member of 'Young Wives'. One with a passion for drama, in 1969 she donated a rose bowl to be presented to the 'Young Wives' group winning a competition. Eventually this became held as part of the annual AAW AGM festival, the Rose Bowl becoming a trophy for drama, singing, monologues or anything conveying the theme of the festival. Performances are judged by an outside adjudicator.

This year's theme was 'A New Testament Woman'. The winners were from Christ Church Cathedral, by a very small margin indeed.

Pictured on the right is Viv D'Auvergne, this year's adjudicator. Other photographs from the 2011 festival feature on the front cover of this edition of 'Circle'.



St Christopher's AAW Sunday Service at Blenheim was entirely led by AAW women. The Service Leader was Margaret Warnes. Kathy Peacock preached on Kate Shepherd, "A Woman of influence". The Celebrant was Pam Holgate, while others read the lessons and led the prayers. Members have also visited the Rock and Mineral club's rooms at Brayshaw Park to see the interesting collection which was explained by a member, Colleen Agnew.

Greymouth groups decided to make an AAW banner. Pat Cogger drew the design featuring clematis, rata and kowhai flowers from the West Coast and a Dove, representing the Holy Spirit beaming guidance on the AAW. The yellow rays represent O&O and Social Concerns. A local woman, Elizabeth Woodward, embroidered it and the poles were made by the church handyman. The banner was paraded at four services on AAW Sunday weekend, being dedicated by the Revd Marge Tefft at the evening service at which there was a large attendance from both groups.



NB: please! To take advantage of colour pages, 'Relating and Rejoicing' items may be no longer always in strict 'North to South' sequence. Good clear photos and/or more than purely domestic content may govern placement.

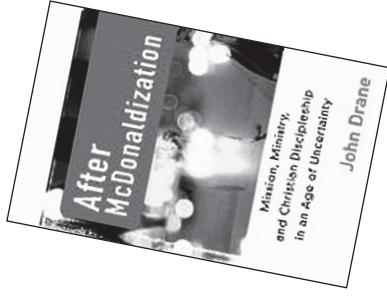
Book Review:

Reviewed by John Palmer

After "McDonaldization"

Mission, ministry and Christian discipleship in an age of uncertainty"

- by John Drane, published by Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, USA.



John Drane is an academic, his books on the introduction to the New and Old Testaments are widely used as student textbooks, but he is also a keen observer of cultural changes and trends. He is in his own words "a practitioner as well as a theoretician". Therefore this is not some theoretical book with new words every line so you have to keep referring to the dictionary, but it comes out of many discussions with church leaders in many countries.

Societies are complex and Drane refuses to give one single explanation for the decline of church attendance in the Western World but does give a good, albeit uncomfortable, analysis of the major trends we are living through, without being simplistic. This book is an invitation to think outside the box of what we know, and to imagine what the Christian future might look and feel like if we allow ourselves to ask new questions.

We often make little progress in our thinking because we don't ask the penetrating questions; Drane does. The book has only five chapters – culture, community, mission, ministry and theology, but each is packed with an in-depth analysis. Although John Drane teaches at the University of Manchester in the emerging church programme, this book is far wider than just another book on the emerging church.

Drane succeeds in clearly enunciating the cultural changes that have led to the emerging church movement, although he rightly points out that the lack of clarity in terminology has caused problems not only in the debate on the emerging church but also in discussions over post-modernism. At its best the emerging church is "inviting us to rediscover our roots in the person of Jesus and to reshape Christian community in the light of His radical understanding of discipleship and of the Kingdom of God."

If you are at all concerned for the future of the church here on earth, then this book is a must read. It would also serve as a great book for parish studies.

NB: This book may be obtained by online order from Amazon.com - at 'special' prices for both new books and good second-hand copies.

The Nelson 'Square'

- on the *Provincial
AAW Banner.*

Blue & gold, also the AAW colours, represent the sky and the sun. Nelson & Marlborough are usually blessed with very high sunshine hours - they are often friendly rivals for the greatest number of hours of sunshine in New Zealand. The Sun also represents 'The Son'.

The Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Nelson.

Nikau palms stand for the northern part of the West Coast, representing the Greymouth and Cobden-Rununga groups.

The grapevine represents the many vineyards in Nelson, Waimea, Golden Bay & Marlborough.

The whale is for Kaikoura, and the small fish represent the fishing industry in Nelson and other parts of our Diocese.

Designed by Pat Cogger

