

Circle

Volume 50, No. 2 *May 2018*

Songs of
Autumn p32

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Inspirational Women -
Beverley Shore Bennett p16

The Association of Anglican Women



Theme for 2015-2018:

Grow in Discipleship, Dreams, Dedication

The Aims of AAW:

-to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church

-to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life

Contributions for *Circle*

Diocesan AAW Group and Members' Items: Please help the *Circle* editorial team by sending your contributions and reports, email or hand-written, to your Diocesan *Circle* Publicity Representative so that she can collate, edit, proof and select what to send from each diocese to keep to the approximate word allowance of about 360 words per diocese. This allows for around two pictures.

Diocesan Coordinators: All copy should be emailed to the *Circle* Co-ordinator, Pat Vincent, patvincent999@gmail.com.

Text: It can be in the body of an email or attached as a Word document.

Photos: High Resolution original jpg files or raw digital photo files. These will be *large separate files, not pictures included in a Word or Publisher document.*

Cover Photos: Front Cover - Autumn colours starting to show in Wellington Botanical Gardens. Back Cover - Central Otago autumn colour. Photo by Denise Miller-Williams.

Copy deadline for the next issue:

20 June

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

From the Editorial Team

This May issue is published in Autumn which suggested to us the theme of golden richness and mellow reflection. We hope we have given you some autumnal ‘food for thought’, as well as interesting updates on people, places and activities.

Many thanks to our regular writers who provide copy for each issue, and to our new contributors of poetry and prose pieces. We have received some great photos that ‘tell a story’ perhaps better than words do. Included in this publication is publicity material about the **AAW Triennial Conference** to be held at Scots’ College Wellington, 5-8 October. Will we see YOU there?

The World Day of Prayer in early March was well observed according to reports received. And it was so positive to read how some parishes are bringing back into their churches celebrations of Mothering Sunday during Lent, instead of bowing to the now commercialised ‘Mothers’

Day’ in May. The AAW should lead the way in the observing old Christian traditions – did you notice that in all the Easter advertising on television only the Hope Church had the courage to express the Christian Easter message?

Enjoy the remainder of Autumn and take loving care of yourselves during the coming Winter.

God Bless

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Letters to the Editorial Team

The Editorial Team has received a response to our question: What is the origin of the AAW Banner.

Val Laing writes:

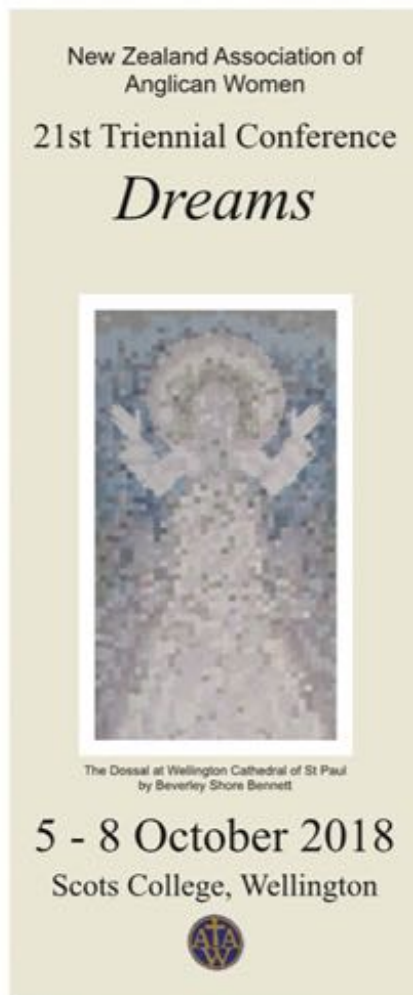
In the early 1970's the AAW had no badge, banner or service books. We were a fledgling organisation. It was all very exciting. The New Zealand President, Jeannie Parr, was barely 40, and I, in my early 30's, was the youngest Diocesan President. While I have no memory of how diocesan banners originated, Dunedin was asked to plan a service book, or at least services of dedication for leaders and committees.

Somehow the question of a logo came up. My husband Graeme was inspired. He took a 5-cent coin, drew round it and played around with the three letters: AAW. I think that the cross was implicit rather than actual at that stage.

Thank you very much Val for the origin of the logo. Can anyone provide more information?

Editorial Team

You are warmly invited to attend our Triennial Conference:



2019 Golden Jubilee of AAW

How do we celebrate? Ideas please.



Photos from the Hui attended
by Fiji delegates (see p. 25)



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President's Notes



Dear Members

Today I sit here on a lovely Autumn day, with the sun pouring down on me as I reflect on what has happened since my last column in February. As Christians we have had the chance to celebrate Easter and our Risen Christ and to continue to spread his message and walk in his ways.

We had our six-monthly Provincial Executive Meeting here in Wellington on 17th March. It was a full-on day as we looked at all our plans for the next 6 months. Please see photo and the notes p.8 in this magazine.

I was fortunate to represent you at a reception at Government House in early March, hosted by the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, our



Pat Vincent and Rez Gardi

Governor-General, and Sir David Gascoigne, with the support of the Ministry for Women to celebrate the 125th anniversary launch of women's suffrage in New Zealand.

What a wonderful event this was as we met to honour all those women who fought hard to gain women the right to vote and still continue to this day to gain gender equality! We listened to speeches by Dame Patsy, Julie Anne Genter, Minister for Women, and a number of young women, including Rez Gardi, who was Young New Zealander of the year for 2017. Hers was an inspirational story as she told of her journey as a Kurdish refugee, born in a Pakistan refugee camp, to becoming a lawyer advocating for refugee rights. The reception included a diverse group of women from Helen Clark, Hilary Barry to Rachel Hunter. It was lovely to see a number of schoolgirls attend. Besides Rez, I was fortunate to meet Dame Patsy, Hon Julie Anne Genter and Dame Miriam Dell, a former President of the National Council of Women and a faithful Anglican woman.

Later in March, I travelled with



Pat Vincent and Dame Miriam Dell

our Treasurer Joan Honeyfield, Social Concerns Convenor Pip Harrison and Rosemary Bent from Mothers' Union to a gathering of our members from the Waikato/Taranaki Diocese (see photo below) as we met to look at how to go forward as a diocese. It was a lovely opportunity to speak to the women and offer our support and to hopefully welcome them back into the AAW family. Dialogue is



ongoing.

It has been busy here in Wellington with Regional AGMs, Commissioning Services and a Mothers' Union event to attend but I do enjoy the chance to meet up with our members. It has been heartening to see that the Regional AGMs have had collections for our Emergency Fund. This week I have been honoured to be asked to lay a wreath on behalf of the National Council of Women at the Wellington City Council's Anzac Service at the Cenotaph, with their President Vanisa Dhuru. Unfortunately due to a bad fall I have had to reluctantly decline. But we will remember all those men and women who served our country to give us peace.

Hopefully the following quote will inspire you with your AAW journey in the months to come:

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 1 John 3:18

*Blessings,
Pat*

Notes from the Provincial Executive

Notes from the March Provincial Executive Meeting

On 17th March the Executive met for our six-monthly meeting here in Wellington at the Anglican Centre. It was lovely to welcome Christine Aitken, the newly appointed President of Dunedin and Joan Neild, Mothers' Union President. Sadly we also farewelled Rev. Sandra Williams, President of Wellington, who is standing down in May.

As you know we have started on a journey to grow and move forward as an organisation, which will

enable us to continue our vital and important work. This involves reflecting on our aims and structure. As part of this process we have consulted with you, our members, to identify what is important to AAW. For most of us the reason for joining AAW was that initially we received a personal invitation to meet like-minded Christian women. This spiritual support, friendship and a purpose has kept us in AAW. Wellington Diocesan Executive summed it up: AAW is an important network of Christian care, support and fellowship for the more mature



AAW NZ Provincial Executive

Back: Pip Harrison (Social Concerns Convenor)

L to R from back: Pam Hartley (Secretary), Cynthia Prince (Waiapu President)

Judith Mackenzie (Christchurch President), Joan Neild (Mothers' Union President), Christine Aitken (Dunedin President), Shelley Vette (Overseas & Outreach Convenor), Anne Gover (Former Dunedin President)

Barbara Dixon (Auckland President), Pat Vincent (Provincial President), Joan Honeyfield (Treasurer & NZ Stationery), Janice Viles (Circle Business Manager), Rev. Sandra Williams (Wellington President).

Notes from the Provincial Executive continued

members (both in Christianity and in years) of the parish.

At our recent Provincial Executive Meeting we focussed on our next step in the process which is: determine how, who, when – the all important how. To this end we decided on some **Strategic Objectives for the coming 18 months.**:

- To share plans and ideas that enable parish groups and diocesan committees to develop intentional plans for growth

- To strengthen bonds of friendship across parish and diocesan boundaries

- To grow support for our Emergency Fund (to meet the effects of global warming)

- To inform and enthuse members about our Overseas and Outreach partners

- To inform and enthuse members about Social Concerns

Our Operational Plan to achieve our first objective includes the following:

- AAW Brochure - to inform people about AAW (see right) -

now sent out to groups to customise

- AAW Website– in the process of being set up

- AAW Facebook

- Circle – our magazine links our members

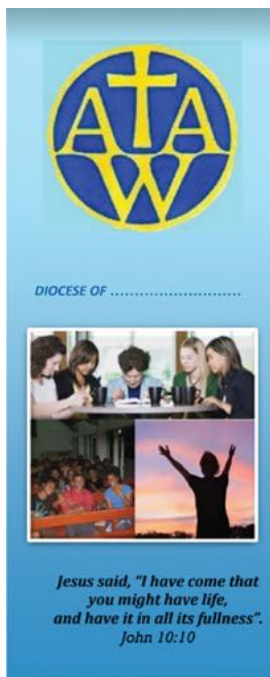
- AAW Badges: a new batch has been produced

- PowerPoint about the work of AAW – can be used by our groups

- Triennial Conference: based on our AAW theme and aptly named “Dreams” – dreams of a growing organisation.

We are incorporating “Growing our organisation” into panel discussions and workshops. Of course there is plenty of time for fun and fellowship with like-minded Christian women.

Pat Vincent



Social Concerns - Power Plays



As I write this on Holy Saturday – that odd, dead day with our Lord in the grave as the world waits – I am musing on power plays in our world.

So much of our history is written in the use and misuse of power. We can see it on the international stage and here in Aotearoa New Zealand, right down to our lives as individuals; in how financial, political or military might is used through to the treatment of those under our own influence.

All twelve of the definitions of ‘power’ in my dictionary may be read as positive. It is in how the ability, strength, control, influence etc, are used that the good or bad is done.

So often it is taking a shortcut to what a person or group wants that does the damage: I can take this land because I have a stronger army; I can make you do more work than is reasonable because I could take your job away; I can ruin your life because I can afford better lawyers than you; I can sexually attack you because I am stronger than you or have other

power over your life; I can get moved up this or that ‘ladder’ because I have more money than you; I can send you hurtful messages because I am popular and you are not; and so on.

In this ‘Suffrage 125’ year and with the news of Harvey Weinstein, MeToo and the investigation into harassment in law firms swirling round us, we have these issues clearly before us. Historically, we applaud the tenacity of the suffragists, who worked to get the vote for women. Their example gives us hope that things can change, as does seeing that those raising their voices on issues that are, after all, as old as time, appear to be gaining some traction today. May we too raise our voices to challenge what is unjust or bullying.

It’s no coincidence that it is people working together that have achieved these changes. Members of a group give each other strength and encouragement to resist and to persist. It is the power of witnesses that can be most effective against bullying, which often works

because of the isolation of the victim. This is something that makes cyber bullying so particularly awful. Witnesses to bullying, who are prepared to speak up, are the ones that can tip the balance, bring perspective to the situation, make the bully re-consider or at the least bring them to justice.

Acknowledging the other as equal and working towards an answer that suits both parties takes proper humility, patience and self-control. Wisdom too – for instance in seeing that putting someone else down does not actually put me up; that I cannot always honourably have everything I want; that I may think I know best but actually other people have good ideas too; that kindness has power as well; that winning by might has long term ramifications. This last is true in the little encounters of every day as well as in the big political ones. You can see it in parenting styles for instance – growing self-managing adults takes a different style from growing someone who will always need to be told what to

do or who believes that being bigger means you get what you want.

Our church acknowledged the need to equalise power beyond the numerical in moving to the three tikanga system and I believe we can be proud of that.

As ever, we can look at Jesus as our model. Paul calls us to imitate Christ's attitude of humility in laying aside equality with God and being obedient even to death (Philippians 5-11). Jesus stayed close to God, He preached His message of a different sort of Kingdom to the people and to those in power. He did not buckle under Pilate's gaze, even though it was so costly for Him. He was not diminished by following His path and He was vindicated on Easter morning.

It is in acknowledging our place as creatures (created beings) under God and His place in us that we can really make headway on this.

I read somewhere of a woman, who was upgraded on a flight. She felt abashed to be in the company of wealthy and influential people

but then thought to herself, “I am the King of King’s daughter and on God’s business” and was able to relax.

When those influential people have an equal sense of their place under God, real progress can be made.

This sense of knowing who we are and that we have worth is very liberating. Even if someone else tries to put us down or lead us astray, there is a strength there that pushes back. We are not empty vessels for someone else’s opinion to fill or someone else’s power to break. We can have a sense that the life we lead is important to God and it is not necessary to give in to the unreasonable demands of someone with apparent power over us, since God, after all, has more.

On the other side, it highlights our responsibility as children of God to wield such influence as we have in this world with humility and for the Kingdom.

May we all rest in that sense of who(se) we are and *'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God '(Micah 6:8).*

Pip Harrison

Social Concerns Convenor

Papua New Guinea Update

Papua New Guinea is situated on a zone of collision between the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates. Over the years, earthquakes have been frequent and severe, often with a magnitude above 6 and as high as 8.

According to Anglican Missions, “over half a million people have been affected by the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck the Highlands Region of Papua New Guinea on 26 February. Almost three weeks after the earthquake struck, some places remain cut off and an estimated 35,000 people have been displaced of which about half are living in 26 informal care centres. At least 125 people have died and infrastructure has been severely damaged.

Papua New Guinea’s Health Department says more people will die in earthquake-hit districts if health issues are not urgently tackled and the head of Emergency Medicine in PNG says there is a risk that food and water borne diseases could kill thousands.”

Overseas and Outreach



Damaged road in Komo, Hela province of Papua New Guinea, affected by the 7.5 earthquake 26 February 2018. Photo - Radio New Zealand



Landslips between Moro and Hides in the PNG Southern Highlands. Photo - Bernard McQueen.



People in Southern Highlands waiting for the arrival of food. Source HANDOUT-Reuters 8 March 2018

A recent news item stated “The scale of the emergency is testing the finances and capacity of one of the world’s poorest countries”.

UNICEF said that “About 270,000 people, including 125,000 children, require urgent humanitarian assistance. There is considerable pressure on food supplies with people in the affected provinces needing both emergency food as well as seeds to re-establish fast growing food crops. According to the latest situation report from the United Nations (15 March), priority needs are medicine, tarpaulins and tents, blankets, food and water.”

At our Provincial meeting in Wellington on 17 March, AAW Executive members voted for \$1,000 from the Emergency Fund to be sent to the Anglican Missions Board to help the PNG earthquake victims.

Shelley Vette
Overseas and Outreach
Convenor

Mothers' Union



Faith, Hope and Love

In 1 Corinthians 13: 13 we read 'so faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love'. St. Paul's writings to the early church have this verse running throughout his letters to the early church, a theme of faith, hope and love.

There have been many examples of women apostles in the early church, such as Mary Sumner our founder, but the greatest example I can think of is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Through the gospels we follow Mary's story, a life lived by faith, showing hope and abiding in love.

Her faith in believing the 'angel's message' to her is just a start; following through Jesus' childhood and early life wherever his ministry took him, Mary his mother is always with him or nearby. Her hopes and love for Jesus are evident in the gospels.

In our lives we encounter many things, some we like and others we would rather not face. But we do this because of our abiding love in our Saviour's love for us. So we

have faith that we have his love to carry with us going forward. Wherever we go we need to walk in the presence of God and make him always at the centre of our lives so that the steps we take will be with his grace.

In Mothers' Union we say we are walking in 'Mary Sumner's shoes'. That is our theme for this year. Mary Sumner was a remarkable woman, and it was her original vision to uphold women of any status, because she believed that their primary role was the responsibility to raise and nurture their and others' children in the love of God.

Mothers through the ages have always kept the peace and harmony of the family at the heart of their lives. It is why we feel sad when our mothers are with us no longer. We want to share our lives with our mothers because like Mary, our own mother first loved us, and nurtured us to be the women we are today.

When we walk in the presence of God, we shall go forward together, through all the ups and downs of our life. Sometimes like St. Paul, we don't find life easy at all, and as we find new challenges we need to



change our steps or direction. We are fortunate that times are different in our world than in St. Paul's times, although that does not make life for us any easier in that respect.

If we make God the centre of our life, then he shows us the steps to take, so we are able to follow St. Paul's words in faith, hope and love.

Joan Neild

Provincial President,

*Mothers' Union, Province of
Aotearoa, New Zealand and
Polynesia*

Quietish Day at St Mark's, Raumati Beach and AFIA

About 30 women from our Diocese enjoyed a sunny day meditating and praying '*In the Footsteps of Mary Sumner*' led by Rev Barbara Bonifant.

Archdeacon Julie Rokotakala, vicar of Kapiti, gave us some very good suggestions to balance our inner prayer life with our life of Service. We wrote our dreams on a footprint and arranged them on a board. Midday prayer focussed on the Province of Congo and on our

next AFIA (Away From It All) family who will holiday at El Rancho Christian Holiday Park at Waikanae Beach.

The AFIA holiday was appreciated by the family very much. Sally Mathieson and Jo Shepherd helped Heather set up the flat for the family.

After a very friendly shared lunch Rev. Barbara Bonifant shared the life of Elizabeth Fry who worked for better conditions for women in prisons and those who were sent as convicts to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). She was a woman before her time just as Mary Sumner was. Our visitor from Wiltshire England, Rev. Renee Coulson, priest in charge of Johnsonville, enjoyed the company and the theme.

We finished the day with a Eucharist, with 2 full baskets of pyjamas and socks and \$40 in donations for the City Mission as our offering. Mary Driver and Heather Dawson delivered them.

Heather Dawson,

Diocesan President.

Inspirational Women

**Beverley Shore Bennett MBE
FMGP, Artist.**

Beverley was born in 1928. She was educated at Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Karori. Four generations of her family have attended Marsden: her mother was a pupil at the original Mrs Swainson's School, followed by Beverley, her sister, daughters and grand-daughters. Her father served on the Board of Management and Trust Board, and Beverley followed in his footsteps serving on both Boards from 1979 – 2008.

She designed and made the terracotta mosaic cross in the school's chapel. In 2012 she was inducted as a Marsden Hall of Fame Laureate. This Hall of Fame was established to celebrate and acknowledge outstanding women

who have achieved success in their field of endeavour. She is a dear friend and



treasured member of the Marsden community.

To gain extra art tuition while at Marsden, she attended life night classes at Wellington Art School, under the tutelage of Fred Ellis. On leaving school, she continued full time study at the Art School, and this was followed by two years spent in London at the Byam Shaw Art School. It was during this time that she specialised in portrait painting. In 1952 she had two small tempera paintings hung in the Royal Academy in London.

On her return to New Zealand she married Peter Bennett and continued with portrait painting, undertaking a number of commissioned works. In 1969 she was asked by the then Dean of Wellington Cathedral, Walter Hurst, to design a portable font for the new Wellington Cathedral, and this led to her being asked to design a window in memory of the founder of the Holm Shipping Company. She accepted the challenge, and this diverted her career to designing stained glass windows.

The process of window creation

Beverley Shore Bennett, Artist

starts with the brief from the donor, together with ideas from her environment and the scriptures. The colour design was prepared at a 1:10 scale for approval by donors, church and Diocese. Once it had approval a full-sized black and white version, or cartoon, showing the lines where the lead joined the glass pieces and the details of the glass painting was prepared. This went to the glass maker, who cut and painted the glass with reference to the colours in the original design.

She found it was important to work in collaboration with the glass maker and she was fortunate to have good working relationships with all the makers: initially with Roy Miller and Paul Hutchins at Millers Studio in Dunedin, and subsequently with Stephen Bellanger-Taylor (Geraldine) and Olaf Wehr-Candler (Pukerua Bay). In 1978 she and Roy Miller were made the first New Zealand Fellows of the British Society of Master Glass Painters. Her work is distinctive, with the curving lines of the leading emphasising the design of the window.

Beverley's work can be seen throughout New Zealand, as many churches have had people donate her beautifully designed windows. More information on Beverley, the respect for her art and many examples of her work are to be found in the book *Capturing Light - Roy Miller - Stained Glass Artist* by Brian Miller, Lifelogs Publishing, Dunedin, 2016.

She does not have a favourite window, although her first — the Holm window (see p.18) — often comes high on the list. Another that is frequently mentioned is the window she designed for Avonside Holy Trinity Church, Christchurch. The window was dedicated to one of their lay readers but destroyed in the Christchurch earthquake. Beverley used text from Revelation as a basis for her design and at the dedication, was told by the lay reader's wife that this had coincidentally been the last lesson her husband had read before he died. This made a significant link.

Beverley also designed and made church vestments and hangings, one of the most impressive being the dossal

Inspirational Women cont'd

hanging behind the altar in St Paul's Cathedral in Wellington. This took 3 years to produce and was a combination of many squares of patched fabric and appliqued machine embroidery. Her book *A Key to Embroidery* had 2 editions.

For about 60 years she has belonged to the Mothers' Union and AAW, and in 1976 was installed as lay Canon for the Arts in the Anglican Diocese of Wellington. She is now a Lay Canon Emeritus.



Outside her artistic work she was the Charter President of the Zonta Club of Wellington, and in 1976-8 the Zonta District Governor for Australia and New Zealand. In 1980 she received an MBE.

Beverley acknowledges the support and encouragement she received from her family in her artistic endeavours. In particular, her husband, Peter, was one of her greatest supporters, and she would not have been able to achieve what she has without him.

Beverley believes her artistic ability is a gift from God and as such felt she was meant to pursue this vocation. She was awed to think she had been given the chance to use her skills to work for God's church. At the dedication to the windows in St John's Cathedral, Napier she said,

“Glass is not just beauty, but communication, it should lead you to ponder, recollect and be inspired by the great Christian truths.”

*My thanks to Beverley, Diana Newberry and Marsden School,
Diana Maunder*

Tim's Castle - poem by Meg Hartfield

I watched
protectingly
as our small grandson, at kindergarten
with utmost care
filled his bucket, patting down the sand
tongue-tip helping
up-ended
and with immense pride
up-lifted
revealed - a perfect castle
then hastened to find the exact
leaf-flag -
his masterpiece crowned.

A moment,
Then a war-whooping bigger boy
with flying leap
kicked
flattened scattered
destroyed
Tim's castle.

Three reactions -
little boy's lip-quivering desolation
bigger boy's jubilation
my fierce anger
desire for retaliation.

A microcosm of the world?
But retaliation leads to retaliation
retaliationretaliation
The hardest response
understand communicate
forgive
And build another sand-castle
together.



About Meg Hartfield

*Born in Cardiff, Wales, to missionary parents, Meg spent 7 childhood years in Kenya. She trained as a nurse and midwife at St Georges Hospital London, where she met her husband Jonathan. They spent 10 years at a missionary hospital in a turbulent Nigeria. In 1973, with their 4 children and Meg's parents they moved to Whanganui. Here she became a Sunday School teacher, lay-reader and banner maker as well as being active in the Peace and Hospice movements. She especially enjoyed her 9 grandchildren, gardening, music and her donkeys. Her poems were published shortly before she died on St Georges Day 23 April 2017. **Celebration of life : collection of poems** by Meg Hartfield. – Philip Garside Publishing, 2017. www.pgpl.co.nz*

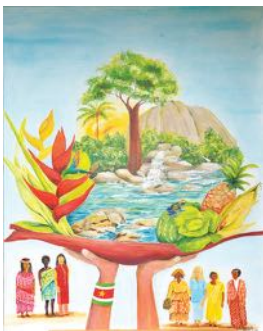
World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer 2018



World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international

movement of Christian people with many different traditions that have a continuing relationship of prayer and service. People from various denominations gather in one another's churches to celebrate, using a Worship Service prepared by women of a different country each year. Women, men and young people share the language, customs and music of that country, right around the globe. The country for 2018 was Suriname in South America and the theme was "All God's Creation is Very Good".



WDP is held each year on the first Friday in March and it takes

place at the same time on that day.

What makes the World Day of Prayer so special is that we women are calling out to God for people in need throughout the world. In some countries, World Day of Prayer is the only place that women's voices are heard.

- We are linked in strong international relationships of mutual sister resourcing.
- We use ecumenical, lay leadership by women,
- We support aid projects through the giving at the yearly Worship Service.
- We aim to help the world, one powerful prayer at a time.

The theme for 2019 is - "*Come everything is Ready*" and the country is Slovenia

World Day of Prayer in Polynesia and New Zealand

Polynesia - Nadi

We celebrated WDP at our church, St Christopher's Anglican, Nadi. We were honoured to be hosting this event with our sisters from the Methodist Church. This



World Day of Prayer, Nadi

event is interdenominational with Catholic, Salvation Army, Anglican and Methodists participants. This year was the Anglican women's turn to host the event. We were excited as for most, including myself, it was the first time we were attending the Prayer Day. Although the Catholic and Salvation Army women were unable to attend, it did not diminish our spirit of worship.

We praise God for he is good and worthy to be praised. May the



World Day of Prayer, Mangere Bridge

spirit of the Lord guide and protect us during the Lenten season.

Litia Smith

New Zealand - Mangere Bridge

The AAW Group (St James Fellowship Group) in Mangere Bridge Auckland joined together with the women from the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Roman Catholic Churches within the Bridge area to celebrate the annual WDP. The Bridge churches also meet up twice during the year for a shared lunch.

Each centre takes a turn in hosting the service. The 2018 service was hosted by the Baptist Church and we were thrilled to welcome to the service, members from the AAW Otahuhu.

As suggested in the service booklet each person coming to the service received a card with a sea turtle image on it and we were invited to write a personal commitment to care for God's creation. The cards were later collected with the offerings. A table was

World Day of Prayer continued

dressed with a dark green cloth to mirror the Amazon rainforest, a bright multi-coloured floral arrangement on the table symbolised the districts in Suriname and its ethnical diversity. Each church centre took part in the service.

At our Fellowship meeting, the week prior to the World Day of Prayer service, the group completed the suggested Bible study, "All God's Creation is very good" Genesis 1:1-31 and Psalm 8. There was a very lively discussion and a greater knowledge acquired about the country of Suriname.

Blenheim - St Christopher's

Following four practices by the women of seven different Blenheim churches, the WDP was held at St Christopher's. We followed the theme laid out in the CD received from WDP, with the various women 'acting' out the narratives in the service book provided. While the readings were being undertaken, a Powerpoint featuring scenes and music from Suriname was

displayed. Three women acted out "how to keep our creation good". The event was well attended on the day, and included six men. There was also a couple from England who had come to New Zealand on holiday. The woman is a WDP organiser for their area and had checked online to see if any observances were being held during their visit. A lot of effort was taken to recreate the information provided and it was well worth it. The photos represent various scenes from our enactment.



World Day of Prayer, Blenheim
22

Napier - St John's Cathedral

As usual it was a combined churches effort, with our group being responsible for organizing the day. A member made a small flag of Suriname and there was a wonderful Powerpoint presentation of both the women involved in writing the service and also of the country. As well, they had made very effective recordings of the music accompanying the service. It was altogether quite memorable.

Johnsonville, Wellington - St John's AAW Group

This year it was our turn to host the other 4 churches in Johnsonville to this annual



WDP environment protection enactment, Blenheim



World Day of Prayer, Johnsonville

interdenominational service to pray for the people of Suriname. We were fortunate to have some Pasifika ladies from the Presbyterian Church in Porirua, who added colour with their lovely woven headbands; and also children from the local Catholic School.

The service was truly interdenominational with Cheryl Woods of the Broderick Road Chapel accompanying the singing on the piano and Silvio Famularo, an opera singer, filling the church with his wonderful singing of *For the Fruit of All Creation*. We all made practical promises to care for the environment e.g. use recyclable bags (Boomerang bags) instead of plastic.

Pat Vincent

Diocesan News - Polynesia



AAW Sunday Service, on 11 Feb 2018, at St Leonard's Parish, Savusavu

The photo above was sent in by Mrs Tanya Arkee, wife of the priest of St Leonard's. Savusavu is located on the second largest island of Fiji - Vanua Levu.

Suva/Ovalau Archdeaconry

We have been involved in the following activities:

1) St. Mark's Women's Guild:

The two main projects the Guild has been focussing on are - .

(a) Visitation : The New Town Settlement is a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious community. We divided up the community into four parts to make it easier for us to visit all those who are sick, the less fortunate, single mothers, widows and widowers,

single parents, etc.

Everyone is inclusive in our visitation, as categorized above, and this is our 'outreach' as well in the community as a whole. We have just finished two. The women are now gearing up their preparation for our Parish bazaar this month in November and the Women's Soli (monetary gift) in December.

In addition, in our 'outreach', the women also visited the "New Town Rugby Team" and St Philip's Church in Nadawa (on the outskirts of Nasinu) which is situated in an "informal settlement", but is still under St. Mark's Church.

(b) Sewing: We continue to sew altar linens, cassocks for Servers and Priests, chasubles and purificator.

2) Clean Up Campaign: The



Visiting Team

(AAW) Suva / Ovalau Archdeaconry had a “clean up” campaign on the 7th October, 2017 at our favourite “My Suva” Picnic Park, on Edinburgh Drive, Suva. We were supported by our families, including the local priests. This is an ‘outreach’ activity by the women in the wider community, giving our support to practically engage ourselves or contribute towards strengthening environmental stewardship.

This newly constructed project by the Suva City Council is an ongoing programme to beautify and rejuvenate our capital city of which this Park is another wonderful addition to the city. This recreational park, with its facilities, are at the hub of social life, catering for weddings, meetings, and other family and community events. It also provides space for sports and leisure activities such as picnics, exercise, fitness and relaxation.

The day ended up at the Holy Trinity Cathedral where the women were treated to sandwiches and cold juice provided by the Archdeacon of Suva, Rev. Orisi Vuki and his helpers.

3) Hui : This was really educational and informative. I was attending as an observer for the first time. Most importantly, that in our diverse culture and tradition, we were able to re-build and strengthen relationships as “Women of Faith” from the three Tikangas.

I felt it was a great experience learning from one another and at the same time relate issues to our own context of which they are similar. However, the Tikangas have different ways and means of approach in addressing issues, especially the realities that are faced by our different communities. I only wish there was enough time for group discussions and sharing after the speakers' presentations. Otherwise, everything was enjoyable. I would like to convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to Karena and the team for the job well done.

*Adi Tukana
(Interim Circle
Correspondent Suva/Ovalau
Archdeaconry)*



Diocesan News - Waiapu

St George & St John, Whakatane

On the beautiful sunny Thursday of March 8th several AAW members along with friends of our group, travelled to the Titoki Healing Centre just out of Whakatane where we enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and meeting with staff over afternoon tea. A few of our AAW members were in fact Young Wives when they began their association with Titoki. Now some forty two years later, it is great to know that what the Revd. Don Ferguson and his wife Wilma began, continues to be a special place for those who desire to visit or stay to receive counselling and spiritual care in an atmosphere of love and compassion.

While spending some quiet time in the Chapel, Linda Jellyman gave us a brief outline of her and husband Keith's background and how they, along with Sue Anaru and Jula Halberg, were lead to become new members of the Titoki staff. It is also worth noting that it



AAW members at Titoki Healing Centre

brought back many memories for Verna Duffy one of our group who is new to both our fellowship and Whakatane. Verna spoke of her best friend Wilma, and how they had travelled overseas together before they were married, this being just one of her many memories. Verna also told of her and her late husband's brief visit to Titoki.

St John's Cathedral, Napier

St John's Cathedral AAW began the year by joining our annual barbecue at All Saints' Taradale. This has become an annual tradition and is always an enjoyable social occasion open to all women in the region. Although All Saints' no longer has an AAW branch, some former members have joined

Diocesan News - Auckland

Warkworth

The AAW group from Warkworth were keen to see Mothering Sunday reintroduced to their parish. Their group of 7 members approached the vicar to see if she would agree to their proposal to make posies for Mothering Sunday and for the service to include the AAW prayer. This proposal was met with enthusiastic support.

The group met in a member's home on the day before Mothering Sunday. With flowers and greenery covering the dining table and afternoon tea ready to be served, they set about constructing 80 posies.

Posies were stored in plastic

cake containers lined with wet paper towels. Each container had 10 posies. They were stored in members' refrigerators overnight.

The Vicar blessed the flowers at each service. At the 8am service a member gave a posy to both men and women, at the altar rail during communion. At the 9.30 am service

the children presented the posies. The sermon was about Mothering Sunday, cherishing mothers, Mother Earth, Mother

Country. It was a beautiful service.

All members attending the services were thrilled and were adamant they would do the same next year.

Vivian Pollock



Diocesan News - Waiapu continued

the Cathedral group. At our March meeting Dean Ian Render gave us food for thought on a Lenten theme.

Our group hosted the World Day of Prayer this year and members helped with the street collection for

Red Cross. We also prepared lunch for the clergy on Maundy Thursday, when they renew their ordination vows. The "knit-ins" continue in the Public Library and the Mah-jong players have happily resumed.

Diocesan News - Christchurch

Christchurch

The news for March from Christchurch is that Bishop Victoria, who has been the Bishop of the Diocese of Christchurch for the last ten years, has resigned as from 1 May, 2018.

It has been a challenging ten years for all Cantabrians but especially for Bishop Victoria, having to deal with the outcomes of the earthquakes from 2010 to 2018. She deserves a good holiday and we wish her well for the future. The Association of Anglican Women in the Diocese of Christchurch will miss you Bishop Victoria.

On Saturday 7 April, 2018 the AAW had a Leaders' Day for Leaders, Secretaries, Treasurers and anyone else who wished to attend. We started at 10:00am with a cup of tea or coffee and finished with a shared lunch, with everyone providing a plate of finger food.

Topics covered were:

- i. Charities Services reporting requirements.
- ii. A problem-solving exercise giving everyone something to think

about. The problem scenario was about an AAW group that is contemplating closing and forming a Fellowship group when their rebuilt church opens later this year. Several dedicated AAW members do not wish to see the group close but leadership is also a problem here. Members were given a problem-solving template to help break down the problem to try and help get an answer.

iii. How to grow in discipleship, dreams and dedication?

The topics were discussed in small groups of four people and many good ideas were raised.

Judith Mackenzie

President AAW Diocese of Christchurch

St Mary's AAW Timaru

Our February meeting was spent visiting two lovely historic South Canterbury churches. The first visit was to St Peter's, Pareora, 16 kms south of Timaru. This is a beautiful little wooden church which

Diocesan News - Christchurch continued

celebrated its centenary in 2016. It is the last church in the Pareora community and is still in occasional use. It's much more modern hall is used weekly by a local craft group.

After lunch at the St Andrew's Hotel we met up with the Waimate AAW at Esk Valley St Mary's Church. Of the many small country churches this is one of the most beautiful in both design and setting, situated on a low ridge overlooking the Esk Valley. It had a sad beginning being built as a memorial to Ellen Meyer wife of Charles Meyer of the Blue Cliffs Station.

Ellen died young in 1878 and had often expressed the wish to see a church on the site visible from their home. Her husband returned to Scotland after her death but left the money to build the church. Unfortunately he did not see the completion of the church as he died later in the same year. This church is full of sad but also many happy memories for the District.

St Peter's Pareora and St Mary's Esk Valley are part of the Waimate

District Cooperating Venture, previously being part of St Andrew's Cooperating Parish.

(Additional information supplied with thanks from Rev. Indrea Alexander)



St Mary's, Timaru AAW lunch stop at St Andrew's Hotel



Esk Valley St Mary's Church with Waimate AAW members

Diocesan News - Nelson

Nelson

The Nelson AGM and Festival was held in Wakefield with the theme of “Grow in Dedication”. After a lovely dinner at Teapot Valley Christian Camp, the Audrey Landels Competition was held.

Audrey Landels was a member of the Cathedral Young Wives group in the early '60s. She was passionate about Young Wives and was keen to enhance the fun aspect of belonging to a group. In 1965 she donated the Rose Bowl for a drama competition. Over the years the groups participating became fewer so eventually the Executive decided to allow any form of entertainment - group speaking, monologues, skits, singing or dancing but done to a theme.

The judges are always independent and the marking is

fairly relaxed but the category of "how well does it portray the theme" carries the most marks. The plays are written by the members and always amaze me by their creativity. The theme is taken from the AAW Theme on the three year cycle. Congratulations go to this year's winners, All Saints' Nelson.

The following morning Bishop Richard chaired the AGM and explained the significance of the discussion concerning General Synod Motion 29 to the unity of the Anglican Church. At the Commissioning service Rev. Martin Harrison preached on the theme. He challenged everyone to make a choice today about what they would do to grow closer to God.

The Guest speaker was Lyn Ashby who has heard God calling her for a long time and at the age of 65 became REFIRED instead of



All Saints' AAW with Rose Bowl judges



Pip Fairbrass thanking Lyn Ashby

retired and went on a mission to Indonesia. In 2017 she went to the Greek island of Lesbos, to a refugee camp near Moria.

Although the coast of Turkey is only 6kms away 600 people drowned trying to cross the strait in unsafe boats.

All new volunteers are taken to see the graveyard of flimsy life jackets retrieved from the coast, each one represents a person who left their home looking for a better life. She spoke of her duties including: security, clearing rubbish, resizing clothes, teaching English, and distributing food.

There are strict rules on volunteer behaviour including not speaking of their faith unless asked, no singing or praying in public and no photos. She hopes to go back. (For an earlier article from Lyn Ashby see Circle v.49 n.4 Nov 2017).

14 bags of hygiene products and knickers, bought with money raised by the AAW and Rural Women NZ Nelson members were distributed to be delivered to the secondary schools around the diocese.

The All Saints Nelson Women Together Group heard a different

travel story from Paula Huckelsby. She went on an Embroidery Tour in England where they stayed in grand houses and learned different techniques and viewed very old embroidery.

Waimea Women's Fellowship learned about the history of olive oil production and use from Rachel Costello. Samples of rancid oil were passed around to smell. The good oil was put out to taste, and smell and surprisingly the oil was coloured slightly green. Everyone left a little wiser.

Stoke

We are still a group sharing leadership each month.

In February we had a fun morning with topics from cards, as we chose a card, we talked about the topic written on the card, this was loads of fun and laughter.

In March, Rev Joy Bradley lead a Lenten Reflection based on Oberammergau and the Passion Play using photos to show the story, followed by communion. This was enjoyed by all.

Muriel Pratt

The Songs of Autumn

I sit back in my chair in our garden, nursing my cup of coffee. I soak up the gentle warmth of the autumn sun and try to ignore the slight chill in the breeze as I look about my little sanctuary. The leaves of the deciduous trees have coarsened and are edged in brown and yellow. The neighbour's maple is blushing nicely; in a few weeks the foliage will be a deep red, a pyre to mark the end of the warm weather. My potted begonias look frazzled; it'll soon be time to lift the corms and store them in the garage.

I feel so old, so tired, just like autumn. The first quarter of 2018 has been so full-on: "Oh, where are the songs of Spring?" I murmur.

John Keats asks that question in his poem *Ode to Autumn* and I find his response inspiring. Don't fret. Autumn has its own songs. Listen to them, take time out to appreciate them.

The songs of Autumn are mellow: a season of mists, of fruitfulness; the harvesting of late crops and of fruit in vineyards and orchards. Listen to the oozing of the cider press, the pressing of grapes. Even the spring lambs are adult now with a sedate walk and a mellow

bleat. The songs of birds are muted, the grasshoppers' rasping chirp has died away. There is a new pattern emerging.

Weather is variable now – we can experience all four seasons in the one day. The cooling wind gusts come from all directions. The days slowly shorten and the sun gentles.

Keats asks us to listen to Autumn's songs, to appreciate Autumn's patterns, and I now see that my autumnal feelings are a part of the songs and pattern of my life. I'm walking more slowly; all the better to appreciate the beauty of my world.

I hear people moaning that Autumn heralds the cold of winter; and the cold will bring sickness and aches and pains. They keep harking back to the music of a Summer that has passed, missing out on the joys that Autumn brings.

In Autumn, as in every season, 'Carpe Diem', seize the day. Only then will you be able to appreciate that Autumn allows us the time to reminisce, to reflect on the mellow fruitfulness of our lives.

Mary Houston



Elaine Sutton 1930-2018

Elaine was a well-known and much-loved Lower Hutt identity for whom Church and Music played a big part in life.

Elaine was born in Masterton and educated in the Hutt Valley. Her natural singing talent was not recognised till she won the singing competition at Waterloo School at the age of 11. By the time she was 14, she was a pupil of Hamilton Dickson; she won many competitions and scholarships. She began teaching in 1952 and gained her FTCL (Fellowship of Trinity College London) in 1956. Four years later she joined the NZ Opera Company becoming their Chorus Manager. She understudied for leading roles and was soloist in oratorios.

She married her husband Noel, a violinist and a teenage sweetheart, at St Paul's Church Waiwhetu in 1953, and they had two daughters, Pauline and Fay, of whom Elaine always spoke with immense pride and affection.

The family lived in Twizel 1973-77 where Elaine and Noel

founded the Twizel Operatic Society; and Elaine trained a very successful Women's Institute Choir that won many trophies at South Canterbury festivals.

On their return to Lower Hutt in 1977, Elaine formed the choir known as The Fellowship Singers that entertained and raised funds for the community for 25 years. In 1987 the Lower Hutt City Council awarded Elaine a medal for Services to the Community.

Elaine's spiritual journey began at St Augustine's in Petone, then moved to St Paul's Waiwhetu, and in 1988 to Holy Trinity Church, Avalon. There, she was leader of the AAW Women's Fellowship group, a Liturgical Assistant and Choir Mistress. She was also involved in Healing Ministry and Pastoral Care. For these Ministries she was awarded a Bishop's Medal. When she moved into Shona McFarlane Village, she continued her Healing Ministry and trained a talented village choir.

During my last conversation with Elaine she wondered how people would remember her. Then



**Elaine
Sutton**

she asked me how I would remember her. I replied, “As the leprechaun at the St Patrick’s Day morning tea in 2014.” (See photo above.) She thought a moment, then grinned and said, “I like that; that’s me.” And it was her, encompassing her love of music and drama, her love of people, and her wonderful sense of fun.

Rest in peace, lovely lady. You have been an inspiration to so many people.

Mary Houston

Joan Foote

Joan Foote joined Mothers’ Union (MU) at St. Mary’s in Levin in 2001 and was their Enrolling Member for 9 years. During this time Joan became MU’s representative of the Northern Region on the AAW Wellington

Diocesan Executive.

In 2012 Joan took on the position of Leader of the Northern Region, a position she held for three and a half years, and as such became a member of the AAW Wellington Diocesan Executive. In this position on the Diocesan Executive, Joan was responsible for organising all the events held in the Northern Region, including a very successful Diocesan Craft Day.

Joan passed away on Friday 23rd February 2018 at Madison in Levin with her daughter Christine and grandchildren James and Katherine at her side. Two ladies of St Mary’s were also present. Phyl Thompson said a Mothers’ Union prayer for Joan just before she passed away.

Noeleen Davies and Pat Vincent



**Joan
Foote**



Patricia Mary Stote-Blandy
..... Paddy



Paddy on her 100th birthday

What a joy it was to visit Paddy on her 100th birthday!

Members of the Waikanae AAW/MU also came along to wish her well and congratulate her on this amazing achievement.

What a celebration of her life I attended yesterday, 4th April 2018. Paddy died just five days after her 100th birthday.

Paddy was born in Buckinghamshire but grew up in Epsom, Surrey. She married the handsome curate at the Epsom Church. She was 19 and he much older at about 26! Her father accused her husband of *cradle snatching!*

Both Paddy and Gordon came to NZ shortly after their wedding. Life became busy as their children arrived and they moved from parish to parish. Paddy loved cooking, sewing, animals and gardening. She also did quite a few lengthy walks.

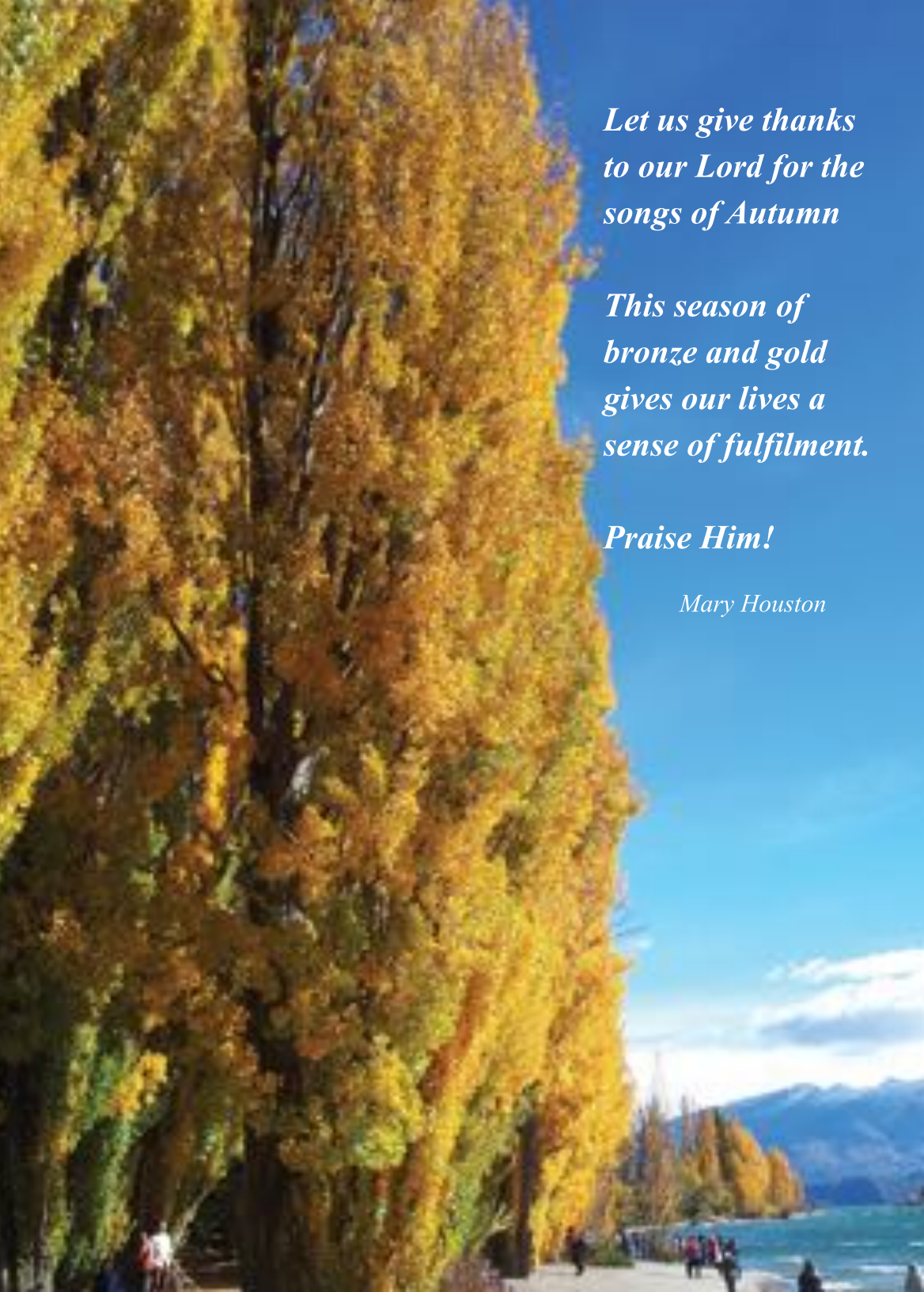
She had one paid position as an occupational therapist at Porirua Hospital. Paddy was a quiet unassuming lady, never wavering in her faith. She remained a member of AAW/MU to her death.

Rosemary Hurd

Recipe - A New Twist on an Old Favourite

Take one medium-sized sweet apple such as a Royal Gala, for each person. Core it; then slit the skin with a sharp knife, either horizontally around the circumference or vertically in 4 slits about the apple. Stuff the core

with your favourite sage and onion stuffing. Bake in a moderate oven for about 30 minutes by when the apple should be soft but keeping its shape. Serve with a baked pork chop, or with a pork roast. Absolutely delicious!



*Let us give thanks
to our Lord for the
songs of Autumn*

*This season of
bronze and gold
gives our lives a
sense of fulfilment.*

Praise Him!

Mary Houston