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Anglican Women's Studies Centre

Answering the Call— Bishop Eleanor of Wellington

Photos & Story By Archdeacon Mere Wallace



The Ordination of Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Sanderson was a joyous occasion that took place at St Pauls Cathedral in Wellington.

As part of the Maori Diocese of Te Waipounamu it was wonderful to attend the Service of the first women to be ordained a Bishop in the Diocese of Wellington who becomes the Assistant Bishop alongside Bishop Justin.

Bishops from the three tikanga were present to give support. The Wellington Community that was made up of many cultures reflected the diversity that is Wellington.

Pastor Amy Page Whiting spoke about the passion of the new Bishop in being a prophetic leader, who had a love of people of Justice which was biblically based.

I felt the Spirit of the Lord's presence as Eleanor laid her life before those present. In the photographs it shows her presenting herself to the Archbishops.

Being at St Pauls was special both spiritually and emotionally as I had not been in that Church since the loss of my daughter, Angela, 3 years ago. Thanks to Bishop Ellie for bring-



ing us back again.

Bountiful God with a generous hand you Sow the Seeds of the Kingdom Grant Bishop Ellie the grace to cultivate your saplings that all might shade in the forest of love.

I give thanks to God for all women who will do God’s work in the vineyard.

Archdeacon Mere Wallace
AWSC Tikanga Maori Co-Councillor



The following is an open letter to our new Assistant Bishop in Wellington from the Wellington link person for AWSC.

Dear Bishop Eleanor,

Thank you for answering a call from God to be our new Assistant Bishop – a very daunting call I might add. Having watched just glimpses of you and Bishop Justin working out how this new leadership model is going to play out, can I just say that I am excited by the possibilities ahead.

Yesterday when I came to see you for an appointment I was impressed that the two of you are sharing an office. It is great to see that the Generous Hospitality that was our diocesan theme last year is being practiced at all levels our church. And thank you for sharing your jar of lollies while we met – the sugar was much appreciated!

I have known you in different ways for over 15 years – first as the Assistant Chaplain at Victoria University, then at our discernment weekend for ordained ministry and then being ordained at St Paul’s cathedral together. You have always greeted me with warmth and I have appreciated your laughter and the joking around about some of the more earthy aspects of being a woman priest.

Can I just say that your wisdom and theological literacy is such a blessing. This weekend past as you led the bible studies for our Anglican Leaders Family Camp I was amazed by how you added to my understanding and application of the Beatitudes. It was

such food for the journey.

As Bishop Justin is heading off on sabbatical for three months and returning just in time for Christmas I imagine you are going to be thrown in the deep end with synods, ordinations and other diocesan novelties. Please be assured of my prayerful support. And I don’t think I overstep when I say that, we your covenanted Priests and Deacons are all prayerfully supporting you too.

Arohanui
Revd Annette Cater
Priest-in-Charge—St Peters on Willis



BRUCE

At the back of my mind
At accustomed times
An echo of your voice I hear
That whispers sanely in my ear
What you would say if you were here.

In the quiet when sad
The joy you had
That filters down through time and space
Reminds me that this empty space
Still bears the image of your face.

In silent prayer
Your prayers are there
With all the faith you passed along
Resounding still and every strong
In echoes of your spirit’s song.

It’s true what they say
When folk go away
You hold them ever in your mind
Within your heart you ever find
Remembrance of one good and kind.

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Anglican Women's Studies Centre

*presents the 2017 Treasuring Women in Ministry Provincial Hui for
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Karena de Pont

anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com

Phone: +64 9 422-0102 or 027 631-3083





WINGLESS ANGELS

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If we only see angels as golden-orbed
news-bringers who intersect human history
with trumpet crescendos,
then we probably miss such radical earth-shatterers
as the harbingers of the contraceptive pill,
who transformed walking uteruses
into freedom-fighters, vote-makers,
paid and volunteer educators, artists and economists,
willing mums and global history-makers.

If we only see prophets as thousand year old men
with Biblical battle-strewn stories to their names,
Then we probably miss the anam caras, the faith-formers
such as bedside sitters of children puking their hearts out
at compline hour or the gifters of casseroles
to elderly neighbours
with newly
functioning
post-operative knees
or hips.

If we only see the Saviour of the planet as a super human
recipient of non-human Y chromosomes and the knower
of all answers before the questions were even posed,
then we probably don't see the umbilical cord that ties him to
messy humanity, sibling arguments and parental expectations.
We probably skip-jump from Friday to Easter, manger to heaven,
without knowing what snacks he packed in his travelling bag
for something to nibble on along the way.

If we only see ourselves as widgets in the Master Plan
or, alternatively, as autonomous gene-sets,
then we probably miss the paradox of the miraculous ordinary
the extraordinary mundane and the daily heralding and visitations
of wingless angels.



Anglican Women's Studies Centre (AWSC)

Karena de Pont, Administrator

Email: anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com

Home Office Phone: +64 9 422-0102 Cell Phone: 027 631-3083

General Synod Office Phone: +64 9 521-4439 www.anglican.org.nz

Postal: General Synod Office, PO Box 87188, Auckland 1742, New Zealand



The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the Anglican Women's Studies Centre was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Anglican Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this Church to fulfil their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like web publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.

Council for the Anglican Women's Studies Centre—2016/2018

TIKANGA MAORI—

† The Ven Mere Wallace
nganehu.mere@gmail.com

† Revd Numia Tomoana
revnumia@gmail.com

TIKANGA PAKEHA—

† The Ven Carole Hughes (Convener)
carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz

† Revd Helen Roud
helen.roud@gmail.com

TIKANGA POLYNESIA—

† Kelera (Nai) Cokanasiga
keleranai@yahoo.com

† Revd Evelini Langi
melevelini.langi@gmail.com

AWSC Diocesan & Hui Amorangi Link Representatives

TIKANGA POLYNESIA—

*Refer to Tikanga Polynesian Councillors
(see above)*

TIKANGA MAORI—

Hui Amorangi o te Tairawhiti

† Ruihana Paenga
ruihanapaenga@gmail.com

Hui Amorangi o te Taitokerau

† Revd Jenny Quince
quincemail@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

† Revd Bettina Maxwell
taumau@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika

† Revd Leonie Joseph
raulee04@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Te Waipounamu

† The Ven Mabel Grennell
mabel.tekorowai@xtra.co.nz

TIKANGA PAKEHA—

Diocese of Auckland

† Revd Nyasha Gumbeze
tamarisk1999@yahoo.co.nz

Diocese of Christchurch

† Revd Stephanie Robson
teffylou@gmail.com

Diocese of Dunedin

† Jenny Campbell
jennycam@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Nelson

† Kaye Dyer
kaye@mightymessage.com

Diocese of Waiapu

† Revd Rosemary Carey
rbcarey.carey@gmail.com

Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki

† The Ven Val Riches
vjrishes@outlook.com

Diocese of Wellington

† Revd Annette Cater
revannette@gmail.com

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Anglican Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general, the AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.