



July 2018  
Volume 8, Issue 6

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia  
Anglican Women's Studies Centre

## Welcome AWSC Links

*In 2018 AWSC has welcomed some new Link Representatives to our network to act as conduits of information and support for Anglican women in ministry and in the coming months we hope to be able to introduce them all to you. We are blessed to welcome for the first time, dedicated Links representing the Diocese of Polynesia Archdeacons. These Links will embark on establishing communication networks across their region and we look forward to hearing more about what is happening in your region in the coming months.*

### Introducing Adi Tukana

#### AWSC Link Rep Fiji Archdeaconry

I was born into a Christian family that held and still holds morale values close to the heart and this has moulded me to become the person I am today. Though I had a difficult start to life, it did not deter me from staying positive and to strive for a better future. When the realities of life struck me, I derailed from the course I set for myself and stayed within my comfort zone. But in 2006, I had a revelation from God and I knew I had to complete my education and start contributing positively towards my family and to the community as a whole. I am the youngest of seven siblings and it has always been a dream of mine to join the ministry. Over the years I have had the privilege of attending various workshops on leadership and ecumenical relations between churches and the community and feel that I have benefitted greatly from these experiences in the development of my leadership skills, so I encourage others to follow my lead and participate in any opportunities that come their way. I enjoy being part of a team working towards



a goal together as I find the experience more valuable than anything you can buy off a shelf.

These past years I have kept myself busy with my involvement and commitment to various parish based women's groups as we have moved throughout Fiji and am current-



The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

## Anglican Women's Studies Centre

*presents the 2018 Treasuring Women in Ministry Provincial Hui for  
Lay & Ordained Anglican Women in Ministry*

# PASIFIKA PERSPECTIVES

## Valuing Tradition, Religion & Arts

Friday—Sunday  
19th—21st October 2018

Tanoa International Hotel, NADI, FIJI

LIMITED FREE ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED AT TANOA FOR  
EARLYBIRD REGISTRATIONS—Reserve Your Place Now  
*Otherwise Discounted Rates May Be Available*

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ly the President of St Mark’s Anglican Church in New Town, Nasinu where my husband is the Vicar in Charge. Over the years I have also held key positions in AAW and find that my current position challenging as President of Mother’s Union in Fiji but take comfort in the knowledge that both Mother’s Union and AAW can work alongside each other well in women’s ministry for the glory of God.

I am also currently working part-time towards the completion of my Bachelor of Divinity degree at Pacific Theological College (PTC) in Suva following on from gaining a University of the South Pacific (USP) Certificate in ‘Study for Women’ and a ‘Certificate in Theology’ from PTC.

In 2006 I started working for an NGO called the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA) as a Programme Assistant and now I am the Programme Officer at our national level. ECREA is an independent, Christian organisation created to address social, economic and political issues

in the Fijian Islands. The ECREA constitution defines ecumenism as “Christian churches working together on issues of common concern for the whole inherited earth,” and at ECREA we work to broaden and deepen this understanding of ecumenism through a conscious and deliberate engagement with the wider inter-faith community. Building on its ecumenical strength ECREA works to address challenges through research, education and advocacy to promote Social Justice in Fiji. A second challenge is found in the understanding and management of pluralism and differences at every level: in ways of thinking, moral choices, culture, and religious affiliation, philosophy of human and social development. The third challenge is globalization, the significance of which is much wider and more profound than simple economic globalization, since history has witnessed the opening of a new era that concerns humanity’s destiny.

In my downtime, I love to sing and play the guitar, to read and to swim and socialize with friends both old and new.



Malo e Lelei and greetings to all in the mighty name of our saviour Jesus Christ. I am indebted for this new position as a Link Representative to the Anglican Women’s Studies Centre for the Diocese of Polynesia Tongan Episcopal Unit. I am Mrs ‘Akanesi Vikilani Folau, 45 years of age and married to Mr

## Introducing ‘Akanesi Folau AWSC Link Rep Tonga Archdeaconry

Viliami Folau with 5 blessings, two girls and 3 boys.

I’ve been a teacher as my profession for fifteen years before doing what I am doing now as Senior Education Officer working as administrator for Tonga Maritime Polytechnic Institute. I hold several roles at All Saints Parish where I am a Sunday School teacher, Secretary for our AAW, a member of Climate Change Resilience Committee and the Priest Warden. I understand the challenges that I face with regards to my role of being a mother but that makes me stronger for I know that’s God’s purpose for me in this life, to go out and be fishers of men.

I was asked what my hopes and aspiration for Tonga Episcopal Unit is, that we are but God’s vessels to reach out and be disciples to uplift everything which is in this fragmented world to glorify God. We might be different in a way, but God sees each and every one as His child therefore, do to other’s what you would have them do to you. I wish all the very best as we row our boat onshore.

Malo ‘aupito  
‘Akanesi Vikilani Folau

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. We welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.*



## Introducing Revd Stephanie Clay

### AWSC Link Rep Diocese of Christchurch

I am both honoured and excited about becoming the Christchurch Diocesan Link Representative for the Anglican Women Studies Centre. I attended last year’s Hui in Auckland ‘*Kia Ngawari – Finding a Wholeness*’, and was inspired by the three Tikanga fellowshipping, sharing and working together to be beacons of light and hope in our lands.

I am passionate about empowering, equipping and supporting woman in ministry as I have blessed to have experienced this for myself over the last decade by those around me whilst entering into various lay leadership roles and then onto theological study. I completed my BTheol at the end of 2016 whilst in my first year as Deacon and Curate in charge of the parish of Amberely. I am now into my second year as Priest in Charge of Amberley and I love it, despite trying to juggle work, family (3 children and 1 Grandson) and a lifestyle block. God is indeed good!



Abundant Love  
Scattered in generous abandon  
Primordial fecundity  
Sown in beds of raw Truth

Vulnerable Love  
Awaits the everyday miracle  
Sleeping, rising  
Sleeping, rising  
Kingdom-entrusting Life

Tender shoot  
Growing, becoming  
Growing, becoming  
Fullness ripening into an explosion  
Of the Creator’s gift

Kindness, multiplying,  
Goodness expanding  
Divine Love-fest irradiating  
The Way

The Way of mustard seed madness  
Gift of smallest possibility  
Reason suspended, logic disabled  
Feathered wingbeats of Hope  
Nest in Her shade

O divine Lover  
Wound-bearer, kingdom-entruster  
What do you require of us?

*‘O my beloved ones,  
Do you not know?  
Have you not perceived?’ ...*

**“You are the seedbed of my heart;  
you are my womb”**

A reflection on Mark 4: 26-34 (Sunday Ordinary 11)  
The Venerable Canon Helen Roud © 2018



# Pasifika Synod

By Adi Tukana



The delegates to the 38th Diocese of Polynesia Synod gather outside MAST, their new headquarters in Suva

for what was going to be an informative meeting. It motivated me to be more confident in what I will do and the task that needed my participation, to honour the role that was entrusted to me by my fellow parishioners.

As the meeting formerly convinced on the day after the Bible Study, I did not let anything to distract me as I was surely prepared for what was going to be unveiled in the meeting. Furthermore, as the formalities and processes begun, I had a clear idea of what I was getting myself into. There were lengthy discussions on various “Motions”

The 38<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod was my second Synod as a Representative and in as many years of my Anglican life. Being nominated from my St Mark’s parish was humbling and a privileged moment that I will forever remember because it meant that I was given to be the voice of my Parish at such a big event. The experience in itself was overwhelming at first, but I thanked God that in the midst of all that was going through my head, the good Lord kept me at ease and gave me the confidence to do my role. Moreover, being part of such a pinnacle meeting, gave me the opportunity to gain much experience and awareness of the matters concerning our Diocese, together with the Anglican Communion as a whole.

and “Five Bills” that shook the House, I may say which was expected of such meetings. We deliberated on important issues concerning the Diocese, keeping in mind that the welfare of the people is paramount when dealing with such issues especially the more delicate ones.

The first day of the meeting was inspired with Bible Study, led by our Archbishop Winston Halapua which set the platform

Even though there were repressing topics of discussions, we still managed to cover all that were in our Agenda uptill a moment to savour when Bishop Api presented his gratitude and thanks to the Church in the closing Eucharist on the final day.

So being a rep at the 38<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod was truly a humbling yet joyful experience that I will forever be grateful for as I continue to journey through life that God has blessed me with.

*Below Left:* One of the Synod caucus groups in action. *Below Right:* Following traditional cultural protocol, Archbishop Winston received the whale’s tooth presented to him by Bishop Api which denotes his gratitude and thanks to the Church.





# WE NEED YOU and YOU and YOU and YOU

*For the new AWSC Publication Project Celebrating  
40 Years of Women's Ordination within  
the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia*

## **EDITOR & THREE TIKANGA EDITORIAL TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

The AWSC Council is looking for an experienced Editor to volunteer to lead a small Editorial Team comprising volunteers from each of the three tikanga for our next publication project over a two year period starting next year.

## **SEEKING WRITERS TOO—Expressions of Interest**

The intention of this publication is to present a variety of essays and anecdotal stories of the experiences of ordained women from each of the three tikanga. It will be an opportunity to mark the significant milestones within each tikanga of women's ordination; the women past and present who have been ordained and their journey towards ordination; to acknowledge the journey and advocacy towards gender equality; to witness societal changing attitudes towards women's ordination over the years through personal stories; to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of ordained women in this three tikanga Province; to share the stories of who mentored those being ordained and why.

These suggestions are just the starting point so we look forward to receiving an email expressing your interest in writing an essay or story along with your proposed topic so that the Editorial Team can contact you.

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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.

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**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.