

The ANGLICAN PACIFIST

of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Newsletter of the New Zealand Branch of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

From the Chairperson

Dear Friends,

The APF executive met last month and we are looking to follow up on questions from our AGM in June, on which we would like your feedback.

One is the format of the AGM. It seems that those who attended this last one generally approved of the "retreat framework". The retreat AGM was to be balanced by more regional activity and several suggestions were advanced. These are listed overleaf, along with the regional representatives. We would like some feedback on these ideas as we would like to implement a programme for 2008. The executive will meet in late January to plan the year, so we would appreciate your comments by then.

2008 is also Lambeth Conference year. In case any of you will be in the UK in July we include details below.

In October we celebrated the launch of the chair in Peace and Conflict Studies to be established at the University of Otago (see overleaf). We would like to thank especially those APF members who have supported us with your contributions, your presence and your prayers in this first stage towards a National Peace Centre in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Advent is traditionally the season when we stir ourselves into action, peace people not excepted. If the peace and love of God as expressed in the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus is central to our understanding of the Gospel, then we must indeed bestir ourselves to act on it. I repeat here a section of my Advent piece for *Taonga*:

To take the gospel of peacemaking seriously we need to practise. Such a way of looking and working is as revolutionary now as it was in Jesus' time, as counter-cultural and counter-intuitive. This is not how human beings are wired to behave. But this is what the Jesus event broke in to show us. As is clear from Jesus' own story, it is too late when conflict is close, whatever sort of conflict, and the crisis of decision comes, when the press statement is due or the envoy must be sent or the unexpected, imaginative, or indeed sacrificial response is required, to work out a theory and a strategy. Training and preparation, in conflict resolution, in new ways of approaching old dilemmas, are needed. For these there is plenty of help out there: take for example, the Dublin Action Agenda on the Prevention of Violent Conflict of 2004, which as well as encouraging alternative strategies, concludes:

"Historically, the emphasis has been on strengthening the institutional capacity for military response. The emphasis now needs to be on strengthening the institutional capacity for non-violent civilian response... Efforts to generate a sustainable culture of peace must be rooted deeply in the population... Education for peace is a fundamental element of this transformation."

What the Church has to offer in addition is a reason, a stunning reason, for acting in this way.

The peace and blessing of Christmas to you all.

Margaret.



APF contribution to Lambeth Conference 2008

- Letter to Bishops before the Conference.
- Walk (2-3 days) to Canterbury, after service in Southwark Cathedral 22 July.
- APF conference: Aylesford, Kent, 24-27 July.
- APF service in Canterbury Cathedral.
- Stall in market place 28 July to 1 August.
- Two 'fringe' meetings tentatively booked.

Peace Studies Centre - Launch & Symposium

About 100 people attended the recent launch by the Prime Minister at Otago University's Auckland premises of its newly established Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies which will be advertised shortly. The Chair has been endowed by a grant from the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Trust and matched by Government funding from Otago's Leading Thinkers project, and is the first stage in the establishment of a proposed National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Vice Chancellor Professor David Skegg emphasised the importance of the participation of Tangata Whenua and of the collaboration of other Universities in the future of the project. Trustees Dorothy Brown and Maui Solomon highlighted the need for the availability of



Professor Margaret Bedggood and Bishop Sir Paul Reeves at the symposium

local opportunities for peace education and the rich peace heritage which can be drawn on here.

The following day the Trust organised a Symposium on the theme of Peace Past - Peace Future, attended by some 80 people. The Symposium was opened by Bishop Sir Paul Reeves, one of the patrons of the Trust, and covered such varied topics as "The Moriori Peace Covenant", a panel of speakers on the challenges posed by military aggression, another on interfaith peace-building, and a presentation on the Cool Schools programme with a most effective contribution from the students of Mt Roskill Grammar School.

The Peace Centre project has significant connections with the Anglican Church: the original three trustees are all members of the NZ branch of the APF, and General Synod has expressed its strong support for an educational connection with the new Centre and mandated a working group to progress plans for that connection.

Future Directions Suggested at AGM

- Continue with present AGM arrangements but endeavour to set up more regional activity.
- Create a liturgy for our Fellowship in local gatherings.
- Send Peace Envoys to our training institutions.
- Enquire into how local team ministries are trained and what input the APF might have.
- Presentations at Synods.
- Presentations at Church Secondary Schools.
- Enquire into training of Tikanga Maori clergy.

APF NZ Diocesan Representatives

Auckland:	Chris Barfoot
Waikato:	Virginia Shaw, Michael Bent
Waiapu:	Geoffrey Neilson, Sheila Chilvers, Dorothy Brooker
Wellington:	Margaret Mander
Nelson:	Bronwyn Tucker
Christchurch:	Indrea Alexander
Dunedin:	Roger Barker

Anglican Pacifist Fellowship New Zealand Branch

www.converge.org.nz/pma/apf or www.anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk

Chairperson: Prof. Margaret Bedggood, **email**

Secretary: Chris Barfoot, **email**

Treasurer: Revd Trish Nicolas, PO Box 12 091, Rotorua. **email**

Librarian, Resources Manager: Hugh Tollemache, phone 09 818 6959; fax 09 818 5969

Newsletter Editor: Pat Barfoot, same **email** as Secretary.

*Members are invited to submit copy for publication in our newsletter. Please **email** to the editor.*