



The ANGLICAN PACIFIST of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Newsletter of the New Zealand Branch of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Chairman's Letter

Refugees have been filling our screens and papers for some time although I suspect as you read this they will, as media stories, have begun to fade out as our popular media begins to gear up for rugby games and FIFA scandals. Unhappily in a world saturated with weapons and never short of self-seeking leaders and their unimaginative followers, the refugee is always with us. However the desperate brutality of the present Middle East conflicts has led to an exodus unprecedented in the last 70 years.

It is an enormous challenge both to those nations who are willing to help and also to those who have considered it to be not their business. The NZ Government fits more into the latter group, but many people of good-will have encouraged them to show greater hospitality. Unhappily we have not doubled our long static annual quota, but happily more refugees will find a home here next year. The pressure on the Government has been worth it. This, and providing money for refugees and their carers is something we can do. To glimpse tragedy and not to be able to help in some way, shrinks the soul.

The cause of the exodus is of course an increasingly destructive war which is laying waste to vast areas of the Middle East. More bombs, drones and poison gas continue to make matters worse, and have never been the right solution. For the poor, who can't get out, the future is bleak indeed. I am sure we are all thinking, "Is there a non-violent solution?", or does our pacifism come to an end when confronted by the Islamic State, President Assad, or the outside hefties up-skilling their expensive weaponry?

I hope that there is still "out-of-the-limelight" talking going on. I wonder about all that money being spent, Islamic State oil money going out, and the huge payments for the in-coming weapons. I don't imagine that there are dusty couriers traversing the borders with pockets bulging with banknotes – more likely well-dressed air-conditioned bankers



way out of the region, with the money flowing this way and that through their well-known and respectable banks. Could these intermediaries between oil and mustard gas be challenged?

What we can all do wherever we are is to pray every day for peace. As an aid to this Meg has collected a book of prayers, and these will be freely available at the Study Day in November. By the world's reckoning we are pathetically weak and ineffectual, but I believe that we can still hope, and sing with Mary, "You have cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly, you have remembered your promise of mercy."

Shalom
Jonathan

Inside:
LECTURE & STUDY DAY



LECTURE & STUDY DAY

Arranged by NZ Christian Network, Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust, Pax Christi, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and Auckland Labour History Group, and supported by the Auckland War Memorial Museum, this year's Dorothy Brown Memorial Lecture and the annual study day will be held in the **Auckland War Memorial Museum Auditorium**, Auckland Domain, Parnell, Auckland.

The lecture on **Friday 6th November** will start at 7.30 pm and the study day on **Saturday 7th** will run from 9 am to 5 pm.

DOROTHY BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2015

The Supreme Sacrifice? New Zealand Chaplains and Churches and the Construction of Death in the First World War.

Reverend Dr Allan Davidson ONZM

Presbyterian Minister, historian, lecturer in Church History at St John's Theological College for 27 years, author of many books including *Christianity in Aotearoa: A History of Church and Society in New Zealand* and 72 academic papers.



During the First World War New Zealand confronted death on an unprecedented scale. For chaplains at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, dealing with death, burials, and writing letters to grieving family in New Zealand was a regular part of their duties. Churches and their ministers in New Zealand, with their well developed theology and rituals around death, during the war were faced with dealing with personal and public grief without either the soldiers' bodies or traditional funeral rites. This lecture will examine how war rhetoric, the pastoral concerns of chaplains in Europe

and ministers in New Zealand, along with societal pressure, helped shape the language, theology and practices around death during war and the legacy they left.

There is no charge for the lecture. For catering purposes please book before 2nd November: ph. 09 306 7048 or email bookings@aucklandmuseum.com

As APF members know, Dorothy Brown was a woman with a vision for the establishment in New Zealand of a Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. In association with fellow Anglican pacifists she formed the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Centre Trust in 2005. In partnership with the Rekohu Moriori Trust and with the assistance of many groups and individuals of goodwill, the Trust was able to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Otago University to endow a chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and to initiate a National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. The Trust has continued to support the Centre which now has six full time staff. Dorothy died in 2011.

STUDY DAY

The Study Day focuses on three wars: Musket Wars, New Zealand Wars and the First World War, all of which are remembered on the Museum site. It introduces to the act of war remembrance the search for reconciliation. Is acknowledgment of failures in the past a part of this reconciliation? Is it compatible with respect for those who died?

The Speakers



Margaret Kawharu,
MNZM, and **Bernard
Makoare**, Ngati Whatua:

Remembering the dead
and reconciling the past in the present for
preparation towards the future, from a Māori
cultural paradigm.



Keith Newman, author of *Bible & Treaty, Beyond Betrayal* and *Ratana the Prophet*: Peacemaking in the Musket Wars – the impact of the Christian Gospel.



Reverend John Hebbenton,
Vicar of St George's Gate
Pa, and **Dr Cliff Simons**,

church warden and military
historian: Gate Pa and Gallipoli; how do we
remember and reconcile?

Booking essential. Adult \$30.00, student and senior \$20.00. Book online <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/whats-on/rememberance-and-commemoration/war-remembrance-and-reconciliation/study-day> or phone +64 9 306 7048. Booking fee \$3 for each offsite transaction. Bookings close end of 2 November. Lunch and morning and afternoon tea provided.

Attached are two flyers which you may like to display at your local church or elsewhere in your community.

APF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the NZ branch of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship will be held at 332 West Tamaki Road, Glendowie, Auckland, at 2 pm on Sunday 8th November 2015. Members are invited to a light lunch before the meeting. Come as soon as you like after church.

Anzac Peace conference in Wellington

Jonathan Hartfield

Peace Movement Aotearoa ran an excellent weekend conference at St Andrews on the Terrace and about 50 people attended. The Rev. Susan Jones, poet and Priest in Charge was able to be present at most of the sessions and chaired the Sunday afternoon discussion.

Edwina Hughes who organized the conference presented the first talk, 'Remembering WW1 in the context of ongoing militarism'. She

spoke of the financial cost of maintaining our peace-time armed forces and the social cost of maintaining a military ethos that supports and idolizes military activity. Underlying this was the acceptance that violence is an acceptable way of resolving conflict, an idea detrimental to attempts to curb domestic and other civilian violence. There were figures that led me to think that, short of a miracle,

our civilization is doomed. For example, Global military spending is US\$1,776 trillion or \$4.8 billion a day, 7% of which would fulfil all the UN Millennium goals. One hour of a US military exercise is equivalent to two years fuel for the average US car owner. Our own minuscule bill is \$NZ3.7 billion a year or \$10.1 million a day. (Initially I thought \$1 million as our response to the Nepal earthquake a reasonable amount until I realised that it represented but 2 hours of military 'pay' and rather less than our 8 new helicopters at \$771 million.)

Edwina also asked that the whole truth be told about WW1 and its effects. She noted the near silence about conscientious objectors, the overall Maori response to the outbreak of the war, and the treatment of returned soldiers.

Dr Pala Molisa, lecturer from the School of Accounting and Commercial Law, Victoria University, spoke on 'Challenging militarism and building peace in the Pacific'. He is from Vanuatu and started with a background account of militarism in the Pacific which has been a major war theatre. He mentioned nuclear testing at six sites, dumping of nuclear and chemical waste, military bases and major military exercises. PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Australia and NZ have military forces. There is recruitment from Micronesia and other regions to the US forces. They have the highest casualty rates, although this is not usually mentioned.

He then talked of the challenges for peacemakers, quoting John 8.32, "The truth will set you free." He believed that Truth is the essential pre-condition for peace, justice and reconciliation. He quoted James Baldwin, 'Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.' Molisa's twin theses were that war is the 'Big Lie' and that breaking the silence about the nature of war needs to be central to all our efforts. Truth-telling involved letting the sufferers speak; those who suffer the

most must be given a voice. He noted that no atrocity portrays itself as an atrocity – always something else. We need to hear the voices of civilians, and war veterans (who are often so hurt that they are silent) and we must guard against myth-making, mentioning the Te Papa exhibition in this context. War, he said, forms its own culture which affects every aspect of society and everyone is susceptible to war's appeal. It is a drug, nihilistic and necrophilic. We live in a time of permanent war so all democratic institutions are under assault as well as the balanced ecology of our world. He stressed the courage needed to challenge the endemic assumptions of society.

Dr Molisa's later workshop was a discussion on men, masculinity and militarism. He asked participants the question, What does a 'real man' look like in NZ society? The multiple answers to this question were then compared and contrasted with the norms of military life. Unhappily many norms were comparable.

Another workshop was led by Sophia Tara, director of the Compassionate Communication Centre, and looked into ways of non-violent communication. The Saturday evening of poetry reading by various poets, including Meg, was well and enthusiastically attended. We also sang peace songs accompanied by the Mighty Ukes for Peace. A new experience for us.

At the Sunday afternoon panel discussion the theme was 'Churches challenging militarism and building peace'. The panellists were from Caritas, Christian World Service, NZ Council of Christian Social Services, the Anglican Church and The Society of Friends. All gave information about their activities but unfortunately only the Quaker representative answered the sessions title unambiguously. APF members would heartily agree with the Quaker views on the subject and I for one wished for a thorough 'quakerisation' of our own denomination.

(Abridged - Ed)

Noticed among the New Year Honours 2015

MNZM: Reverend Dr Vincent Jonathan Hartfield, of Whanganui. For services to health.

QSM: Mr Christopher Barfoot, of Auckland. For services to the environment and the community.

Congratulations to our Chairman and Secretary!

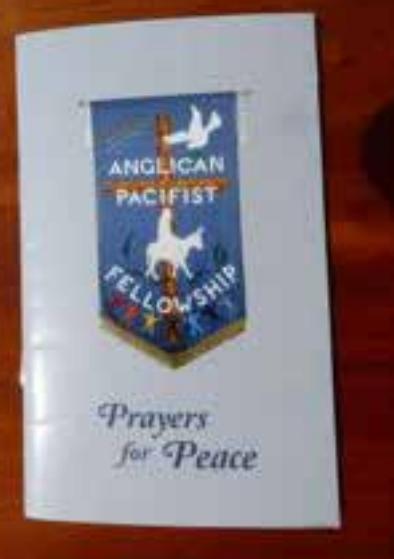
MEG'S DONE IT AGAIN.

Early this century, Meg Hartfield made a splendid banner for the fellowship. It has been carried in street marches and peace rallies and in procession in at least two cathedrals.

Now she's compiled and printed an amazing little collection of peace prayers. They are from many sources, some of which Meg could not trace, and the majority are from her own pen – and heart. Appropriately, she's used the banner she made so long ago in her cover design.

This booklet could be used as a prayer calendar for one's private devotions or as a resource for prayers in public worship.

Meg will bring some booklets to the study day next month, and she is happy to post copies to members. (May we suggest sending a stamped, self-addressed DL envelope.) Address: 6 Caversham Rd. Wanganui 4501. <ilesha@xtra.co.nz> . Meg is happy to give the booklet to members who would appreciate a copy.



... and again:

ANGLICAN PACIFIST FELLOWSHIP

Some of us are old, or older
recalling our fathers who lived through it
the 'Great War'
the war to end all wars
never speaking of the horror
now closed in and sick in memory.

And Europe re-grouped
and the horror came again
a great furnace of hatred
this time the torn bodies of children, mothers, the elderly
added to mangled manhood.
Then the final, unnecessary screaming inferno
- followed by silence.....
for none were left to scream.

O Lord, hear our prayer, our agonised prayer -
not again Lord, ever.

But the relentless killing goes on -
Vietnam, Rwanda, and on and on -
Kosovo, Iraq,....Syria..and on and on
O Lord, hear our prayer, our agonised prayer.
How long, O Lord? How long?

I am one. But I, with God, am invincible,
We are few. But we, with God, will not be overcome.
Here is the line in the sand –we will not step over it
War, and preparations for war
are on the other side of the line.

O Lord, hear our prayer, our heartfelt, believing prayer
and keep our minds alert to peace-making
our hearts aflame with peace-making
our hands active in peace-making
our feet moving always in paths of peace

O Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

APF SUBS

The Annual subscription for APF members and associates is \$20. If you haven't paid yours in the last twelve months, please send a cheque, made out to "Anglican Pacifist Fellowship" to our Honorary Treasurer, The Revd Mary



Davies, 38 Merlot Heights, Huapai, Kumeu 0810. Or pay your subscription directly into the APF account 12 3014 0854633 00, inserting your initial(s) and surname in the Particulars box. Donations to provide subsidies for members who find it difficult to come to meetings and conferences may be paid at the same time.

... and yet again:

THE STRONGER POWER

As the sky turned black
He hung
"Why, my God
why have you forsaken me?"
Why did not a legion of angels
throng to his rescue - destroy the evil?
Certainly the power was there - God
knew
But that destructive power
was insufficient,
Only the power of love
could outmatch the power of evil
and win
and rise triumphant.

Thanks to Tracey Barnett for permission to use the front page photo.

ANGLICAN PACIFIST FELLOWSHIP NEW ZEALAND BRANCH

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

Protector: The Most Revd Philip Richardson

Chairman: The Revd Dr Jonathan Hartfield, email <ilessha@xtra.co.nz>

Secretary: Chris Barfoot, email <barfoots@xtra.co.nz>

Treasurer: Revd Mary Davies, email <maryad@paradise.net.nz>

Newsletter Editor: Pat Barfoot, email <barfoots@xtra.co.nz>

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