



The ANGLICAN PACIFIST

of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Newsletter of the New Zealand Branch of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

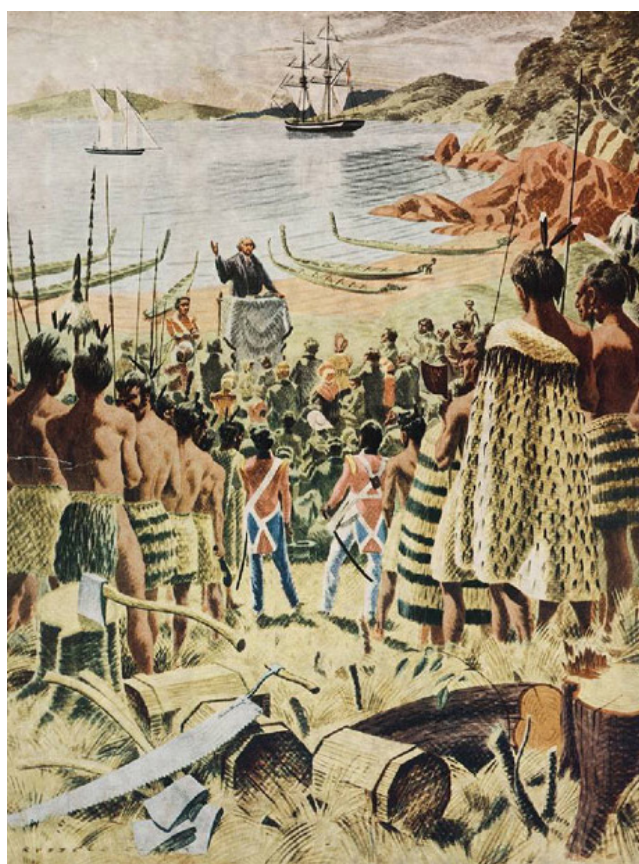
Chairman's Letter.

This year we mark the anniversaries of two events that have significantly affected our nation; the outbreak of the first world war in 1914, and the arrival of Samuel Marsden on New Zealand soil in 1814.

There is a marked disparity between the attention and resources being given to these two events by our Nation's leaders. This difference will doubtless be reflected in our national media and will thus influence the thought of the street's average person. If money is the yardstick 1914 was vitally important to our nation and 1814 of little moment. A minimum of \$87 million is to be spent on improving Wellington's National War Memorial, whilst improvements to the Marsden Cross area will be nearer \$2 million. \$1.6 million of that has been for the purchase of 20 hectares of land by the Marsden Trust, land which would otherwise have been used for housing.

Admittedly New Zealand is a secular state but no government grant at all seems a tad stingy for such a momentous and nation moulding event as the Oihi Bay landing. Samuel Marsden of the Church Missionary Society was invited to New Zealand by Maori. Arriving from Australia on December 22nd he preached his first sermon on Christmas Day, his text, Luke 2.10 "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy". This was borne out in those first crucial years which were foundational to the Treaty of Waitangi 26 years later.

Looking at the two anniversaries this year the real priorities appear to have been reversed. A vision of peace and harmony between all people is coming second to the annihilation of 16 million young men for no good reason. Both, of course, need to be remembered, one



as a celebration of a new and life-enhancing way of life, the other as a solemn recognition of human folly and the heroism, self-sacrifice and sadness this engendered in so many people. Alas, every indication is that the disaster of the Great War will have the main attention in our land.

Jesus talked about yeast where there is considerable disparity between its volume and that of the surrounding dough. He also spoke of mustard seeds, initially too small to be noticed.

I thought about these sayings a day or two

after attending an amazing and moving concert at Wellington Cathedral during the recent Arts Festival. The major work in the concert was the first performance of NZ composer Ross Harris' Requiem for the Fallen.

In the programme notes he wrote, "The work combines movements from the Requiem Mass in Latin with words by Vincent O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan's words interweave with and comment on the Latin Mass, extending the traditional context to reflect the horror and futility of war. The choral writing is mostly gentle and reflective while the string quartet and taonga puoro comment on the words and expand the context of the work to a broad meditation against all wars."

Judging by the rapt attention of the audience during the performance and the profound silence at the end, followed by a universal standing ovation, no one in that packed Cathedral could not have felt and acknowledged, "the horror and futility of modern warfare" and in Vincent O'Sullivan's words, "the refusal to accept that the evil of war must always be the final dominant note."

Members of the APF and other peace

organizations all know how hard it is to break through the barrier of accepted militarism. People are so inculcated with it that our words seem to bounce back as from armour plate. But music, one of the potent yeasts of our time, does have the power to go where words cannot. It not only has the power to "soothe the savage breast" but it can also go much further, much deeper, than mere soothing. Maybe in putting our case for pacifism to others, we have depended too much on the rationality of words and too little on the language of music, art and poetry.

Shalom.

Jonathan Hartfield.



Date for your Diary

Planning for the 2014

Dorothy Brown Lecture

and the

Ecumenical Study Day

is underway. They are scheduled for the evening of

**Friday 7th and all day Saturday
8th November.**

The venue will be

St Columba Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland.

(We are assured that the sound system will be working this time.)

Make a note of this date now!

APF Gathering

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th June 2014, Houchen House, Hamilton

This is a time for members and associates to join in fellowship, to pray and study together and to discuss our future witness. Much has been achieved in the foundation of the National Peace and Conflict Studies Centre at Otago University and the holding of well-attended ecumenical study days in Auckland for the last two years, yet much remains to be done.

Proposed themes include this year's commemoration of the First World War, contrasting responses to being a conscientious objector and the removal of the regimental hatchments at St Mary's pro-Cathedral at New Plymouth – all undergirded with prayer and Bible study.

THE FORGOTTEN MAN

From Paul Oestreicher's Easter Letter

... I have chosen to write today about one man who has accepted great suffering and continues to do so in the hope that all people might live in peace. No more than Jesus, whom he has chosen to follow, does he lay claim to greatness. He too was born into a Jewish family. He too put his conscience before his safety. He remains an outcast among his own people. His name – I expect you may know it already - is Mordecai Vanunu.

A newspaper which, over the past year, has shown that it too is prepared to take risks for the sake of conscience, has chosen Easter to re-tell his story. Read it on this link to The Guardian article:

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/20/israel-mordechai-vanunu-hero-edward-snowden>

Many years have passed since I joined a group of ordinary citizens, albeit some of us well known, who went to Israel to appeal for Vanunu's release from prison. Our concern was for one human being. We had no political agenda other than a plea for compassion. We were received politely by the President of Israel. Our plea was heard and resolutely rejected. Many others have done the same. An American family has legally adopted him as their son. Few people remain sane after eleven years in solitary confinement, a breach

of international law, and seven further years behind bars. He has remained steadfast in his convictions. He is now imprisoned in Israel, a state whose citizenship he has renounced, yet which will not allow him to leave.

What purpose is served in my writing this letter to my friends? Perhaps it is no more than an expression of my solidarity with one human being that I want to share. If you pray, that is one way, not the only way, of expressing your solidarity. Perhaps you will send this letter to others. What will it achieve? God knows.

Perhaps that's the wrong question. What is not in question is that what Vanunu wanted to achieve, to warn the world of the danger of nuclear weapons, is as relevant now as it has been since 1945. Only very recently did Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, remind the world that the continuing presence of nuclear weapons leaves the world on a dangerous yet largely unacknowledged precipice.

... this Easter greeting [is] written in New Zealand, the only country that has explicitly rejected nuclear weapons on its soil or in its territorial waters.... ▢



GALLIPOLI

White stones in the sun,
Only the names are left,
Blown to pieces, never found.
From many nations they came:
Tony, Mehmet, André, Raj –
Nineteen or twenty-one.

Trusting they came
Their Empire called them.
Truth shone in their eyes,
And bravely were they led.
Their quarrel long forgotten,
They lie together.

Country lads they came,
Taranaki or Anatolia,
Sons for whom a mother yearned,
Schoolmates, brothers, cousins,
Loved by sweethearts,
Never to marriage came.

Did they in the hour
Before they fell
Think again of home?
In this hell of battle's rage
Touch again the love
Which wombed and held them?

No boundaries here
And lowered is the flag;
No more the booming guns,
The shouts, the dust, the thirst.
The ground for which they strove
Now is the host to all.

Kindle not upon their deaths
The fire in which they died.
Strive not to divide them
Friend from foe.
Your empires build no more
Upon their mingled blood.

But let them be remembered;
Let every nation mourn;
Dry not up the spring of tears
Which wells in all our hearts,
For in this place God grieves
And weeps for all.

Chris Barfoot

(reflections after a 2010 seminar on Anzac Day)

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 <ilesha@xtra.co.nz>

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

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

Newsletter Editors: Meg Hartfield, email <ilesha@xtra.co.nz>, Pat Barfoot, email <barfoots@xtra.co.nz>

Members are invited to submit copy for publication in our newsletter. Please email it to one of the editors.