



*To promote the overseas mission of our Church and encourage our Christchurch parishes and ministry units to participate in this mission through prayer, giving and personal involvement.*

Our Diocese has a history of strong support for overseas mission. Growth in individuals' and parishes' commitment to Christ, has often been connected with concern for the needs of our brothers and sisters beyond our borders. Parishes and ministry units across the diocese continue to have special connections with different individuals and projects expressing our commitment to sharing good news and responding to needs. The Diocesan Council for World Mission (DCWM) was established to support local parishes and ministry units to build connections particularly with the overseas partners and projects supported through Anglican Missions (AM) including NZCMS. We are also seeking to share the encouraging stories and examples of "best practice" within mission from teams and individuals such as the Rev'd Peter Akester, responding to the invitation to serve the church overseas.

A gathering of Mission Motivators and supporters in June 2024 provided some focus and encouragement. Overall, the past year was a time of limited energy for the members of DCWM, and if you feel you haven't heard from us enough, that is true. However, the online presence and social media usage of Anglican Missions and NZCMS are increasing, and printed updates continue to be available from NZCMS. Prayer resources such as *Partners in Prayer* from AM are available as a booklet and within *Tuia* app.

The past role of DCWM to arrange for speaking engagements for mission partners has been overtaken by the pattern of mission partners needing to report back to key supporting parishes and individuals, rather than being available across the whole diocese. Nick and Tessa Laing provided a dynamic discussion of potential pitfalls as well as strengths of mission, in a meeting in December that was streamed as well as in-person at St Barnabas, Fendalton. Other video resources are regularly updated by NZCMS.

The gritty part of financial commitment is an uncomfortable topic to address. One role of the council is to support ministry units in meeting their

portions of the Diocesan target adopted by Synod each year. The target does not include funds which come in for appeals like Myanmar and Gaza; churches and individuals across the Diocese have been generous with both of those. Looking to the future, it is hoped that there will be more opportunities for parishes to fundraise together as well as greater resourcing for increased understanding of mission issues and support for AM within individual parishes.

One new resource is the AM appointment of part-time Community and Church Engagement Officers, David Dell and Luca Tovey-Duckworth for the 2025-2026 year. This initiative is intended to help AM communicate more effectively with an in-person presence across NZ parishes. DCWM will coordinate a visit from David in coming months.

This initiative, funded with a one-off grant, draws attention to the limited funding AM has for publicity, communications and overheads. In seeking to have careful stewardship of funds,

it has not attained the level of publicity that some other agencies have, despite the valuable work being done. Telling the stories of what is being done in a way that reaches all generations in our church communities continues to be a challenge.

We are grateful for the many years of involvement and support from May Carrell and also Judy Palmer (AAW) who left the council this year.

Members continuing in 2025 are Bronwyn Tucker and Wayne Tucker as Chair and Secretary of the DCWM, Mark Aitchison (Opawa/Beckenham), Rev Peter Akester (Rangiora), Raewyn Dawson (Avonside/AAW), and Fay Deam (Chch West) with new members joining during 2025.