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**INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AUCKLAND DIOCESE OF THE  
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE PEACE MOVEMENT SINCE 1945**

**A thesis  
submitted in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the Degree  
of  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The subject of this thesis is the involvement of members of the Auckland Diocese of the Anglican Church in the peace movement since 1945.

An introductory chapter on the development of Christian attitudes towards peace and war concludes that although the Augustinian just war model became the standard Anglican tool for justifying Christian participation in warfare, the limitations on violence explicit in that model also gave a theological justification for opposing modern warfare. The second and third chapters document the activities of the Auckland sub-branch of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. This organisation, despite its small size, was active in promoting an absolute pacifist view of Christianity. It is suggested that much of its failure was a result of it being over ambitious, expecting people to make a major leap when a series of smaller steps may have been more appropriate. The fourth chapter, on the Vietnam War, contrasts two public marches in Queen Street symbolic of the unwillingness of most Anglicans at this time to consider foreign policy issues independently of considerations of patriotism, but also suggests that disillusionment with Vietnam provided a foundation for anti-nuclear protests. Chapter five is based mainly on the recollections of George Armstrong concerning the peace squadron, but also documents how one inner city parish responded to the challenges of the 1970s and 1980s. The final chapter concludes that Auckland Anglicans were more likely to respond to peace issues in response to some personal feeling of threat than because of a commitment to Biblical principles and that in most instances their theology is used to justify their actions rather than as a reason for those actions.

## **PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This thesis grew from work done as a religious studies student. A research exercise for the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Hons) taking the form of an annotated bibliography identified certain gaps in material available. There was, for example, a considerable amount of material on conscientious objectors, but none on the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. This is an attempt to fill some of those gaps.

The thesis was written to pursue a personal interest in the issue of the relationship between war, peace and religion and this has influenced its writing. In particular, it has been influenced by personal beliefs as a practising Christian. These include a belief that the teachings of Christ are pacifist, and a belief that the Bible is inspired scripture.

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## GLOSSARY

**Pacifism** This is used to refer to the total repudiation of violence under all circumstances.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**APF** Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

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