

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESE—AAW PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SYNOD 2022-2023

Summary: One focus on regeneration has continued to be through the regular issue of the Circle magazine throughout Christchurch Diocese, Aotearoa NZ, and Polynesia. Through this we can spread the influence of our theme of 'Refresh, Renew and Rejoice' at the low current cost per group member of \$10.00 per year, or up to \$25.00 for a 'mailbox' or individual subscription. The last year has seen the final and fourth year of the NZAAW President sited in Christchurch, so our team organised this magazine and sent it out for the last time in May.

Since the February AGM we have created a new handout with updated photos and language, as members can use this most easily when advertising. New members on our Executive bring indispensable energy and vision because it is clear that just following tradition is no longer helpful. We are also revising drastically our Rules and Regulations before next year's AGM and making our donations more specific with clear feedback to contributors.

There are strong new ideas gradually developing for our social outreach and missions. Our prayer newsletter coordinated by Anne Hopkins now has a very wide market.

Membership and Finances: AAW membership in the Diocese has reduced to about 450 members, and eighteen groups. There is resistance to paying to NZAAW and this has been one of the two causes for groups closing. The other is the reluctance of people to be group leaders—when numbers and membership stay the same, this has meant a lot of 'recycling'. Each member pays towards her group, towards NZAAW costs, and to Overseas and Outreach—usually a total of \$25.00 plus \$10.00 for the Circle. Each year we share in over \$8,000 being sent overseas through Anglican Missions to previously agreed centres. This year our own members also raised over \$2,000 for a needed school canteen in Suva and \$500.00 for Pakistan flood relief.

Activities: We send out a Christchurch AAW programme each year with Diocesan Events planned. The IT skill training hoped for members did not work out. The portable 'Welcome to AAW' sign has been very effective as an attractive meeting indicator. We planned and enjoyed a well-attended Cathedral Eucharist last year, as well as an excellent combined Social Concerns and Overseas and Outreach Meeting.

Issues: We are still working at developing a more positive and faith-filled character for our groups. Relationships with God and one another are rarely easy, and as the Anglican Church has been shrinking, AAW, as part of the

church core, has the same concerns and the same determination to learn and apply new lessons.

The Diocesan Committee: We are greatly blessed by the loyalty and hard work of our Diocesan Executive Committee. Counting the NZAAW President, Jude Mackenzie, and Secretary Pat Owen among our Committee has strengthened our scope. With our impressively diligent Chaplain, the Rev Justine Tremewan, and all our team members, we are very well served indeed.

Raewyn Dawson, President
The Association of Anglican Women, Diocese of Christchurch