

AAW PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SYNOD 2023-2024

Summary: Balancing the traditional patterns of the last fifty-six years since AAW began with the demands and social changes of today—this is our ongoing challenge. We have practised honest evaluating and adapting of our processes, including to a more informal style of meetings, and using a variety of communication techniques. A huge amount of success depends on the energy, prayers and creativity of our group leaders and parish clergy, all of whom we gratefully thank.

Membership and Finances: AAW membership in the Diocese includes about 400 paid members, and seventeen groups. We also have half a dozen 'Mailbox' members, who have difficulties in accessing groups. Each member pays towards her group and/or towards NZAAW costs. The Overseas and Outreach project is now a separate fund-raising activity—currently aiming at a NZ target of \$10,000 for the Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation in Uganda. Last year our Diocesan members raised over \$2,000 towards the \$10,000 target for the Suva School Canteen. Our Executive gladly donated \$5,000 from our savings towards the Christchurch Cathedral Appeal. The AAW Circle magazine (\$10.00 p.a.) is not strongly supported, which is unfortunate, as it has the potential to unite and inspire members from New Zealand and Polynesia. Tikanga Māori is, sadly, not as yet a partner in NZAAW. Mothers' Union is currently making overtures towards NZAAW to work together. As the MU, our founding structure, began here in Christchurch in 1886 at Holy Trinity Avonside, we have some responsibility to answer this call.

Activities: We send out a Christchurch AAW programme each year with Diocesan Events planned. Our AGM and Executive Commissioning was in February, chaired by Bishop Peter, and the Holy Trinity Avonside venue is working very well for carparking and convenience. Last year we celebrated our usual Eucharist Services, one of which was in Ashburton, to cater for those in the south, and added a mid-winter party hosted by Rangiora. These were very popular, and we plan to repeat both this year. There was also a combined Social Concerns and Overseas and Outreach meeting which had a great attendance and an enthusiastic response.

The Diocesan Committee: We are always greatly blessed by the loyalty and hard work of our Diocesan Executive Committee. With such members as our previous NZAAW President, Jude Mackenzie and the dedicated Lynne Ellis, who have now retired from the Executive; our ebullient Secretary Pat Owen, and our diligent Chaplain, the Rev Justine Tremewan, we are very well served indeed. Our mission-minded members are Judy Palmer and Anne McCormick, and Anne Burgess, our superb Treasurer, and Averil Moyle provide practical wisdom on our work. Anne McCormick and Averil are working to create new prayer newsletters, as we mourn the

loss of the inimitable Anne Hopkins. Roberta Smith has joined the Executive this year, so we are planning worthwhile events with her input.

May we be a blessing as we are blessed.

Raewyn Dawson, President

Association of Anglican Women

Diocese of Christchurch