

# AAW DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO SYNOD 2021

Last year was a strange year with the global pandemic of Covid-19, lockdown, closed borders to other countries, unable to gather in groups, schools closed, home schooling, working for home, and zoom meetings to mention some of the changes to our lives.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

AAW membership in the Diocese has remained at about 550 members, and twenty-two groups. The AAW group at Dunsandel which was a combined co-operating group closed as their numbers had declined.

Around the country there has been consultation on how to better plan for the future growth in membership. Parishes where most women are elderly cannot reasonably expect that younger AAW members will suddenly appear. We need a two-sided policy of both caring for those of our present, ageing membership, whether physically able to attend meetings or not, and of actual planning to welcome and interest new members, especially those newly leaving full-time paid employment - who seem to be one of our main sources of new life.

## **SPECIAL JOYS:**

This year our Christchurch team have been leading the NZAAW organization which means the responsibility for Circle magazine, NZAAW Triennial Conference and two NZAAW meetings a year held in Christchurch.

## **SPECIAL EVENT:**

This year we hosted the NZAAW 22<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference from 9 -11 April, 2021 at St Margaret's College, 12 Winchester Street. The theme was **Renewal**, and more than 50 AAW members from around the country, and many local AAW members, participated in 3 days of fellowship, fun and friendship.

## **THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE:**

During 2020 the aim of the Committee was to offer support to AAW groups through prayer, visits and counsel, and also to reach out in mission to our larger community. Our AAW Chaplain, Ven Nicky Lee, Archdeacon at the Transitional Cathedral, was unable to attend our executive meetings, held every two months. Her loyal support of AAW is greatly appreciated. Rosemary Edward, was the minute taker for our meetings in 2020 and Yvonne Flitcroft has been on the Executive committee for the last two years. Both members do not wish to continue this year, and I thank them for their contributions to AAW. We welcome any AAW members who may wish to join our Executive committee this year. We are greatly blessed by the loyalty and hard work of our Diocesan Executive Committee.

Pat Owen will take over as Secretary, and I will continue as Diocesan President for 2021 to support all Diocesan of Christchurch AAW members. Involvement in the Diocese of Christchurch and New Zealand AAW executives keeps us busy with other team members of Circle magazine, Roberta Smith and Raewyn Dawson.

*Blessings*

*Judith Mackenzie*

The Association Anglican Women – New Zealand President  
The Association of Anglican Women Diocese of Christchurch – President

09/05/2021