

AAW DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO SYNOD 2022

Summary: We acknowledge the work carried on by the previous President, Judith Mackenzie, until our AGM this year in February. The main focus on regeneration has been through the regular issue of the Circle magazine throughout Aotearoa NZ and Polynesia. Through this we can spread the influence of our current theme of 'Refresh, Renew and Rejoice.' Travel by the President to AAW events around the country has also helped to energise members.

Since the AGM our primary focus has been on deepening the devotional and spiritual life of our members, linking with the position of Diocesan Chaplain and NZAAW Overseas and Outreach Convenor. This we hope will widen our influence NZ-wide, using new Facebook pages to do this intentionally. A secondary focus has been to support all AAW groups, especially leaders in Timaru and Waimate, so they and others have already been visited. Energy, prayer and innovation are our trademarks.

Membership: AAW membership in the Diocese has remained at about 520 members, and twenty-one groups. We have a mixed age group, and are impressed by the younger women who are very active and by many older members who have huge experience and dedication to one another, and to their parishes.

Activities: With the Covid virus still a threat to actual meetings, these are kept to a smaller scale, but the annual Calendar still has Social Concerns, and Overseas and Outreach meetings planned, as well as our Cathedral Eucharist. The Christchurch Diocese acts as host to the NZAAW AGM here in May. There is a suggested plan for some better IT skill training for those members who wish, to overcome the physical meeting problems, and encourage better communication. Also, a portable 'Welcome to AAW' sign has been created to act as an attractive meeting indicator

Issues: The age of our members is not an issue, any more than their gender is. What does give us a challenge is an expectation of fellowship and practical skills being the main purpose of our groups. To change that to a positive and passionate expression of faith is the aim – changing from Martha to Mary.

The Diocesan Committee: As our previous President said, we are greatly blessed by the loyalty and hard work of our Diocesan Executive Committee.

Pat Owen is always an excellent Secretary, and Anne Burgess is the energetic new Treasurer. With our gifted new Chaplain, the Rev Justine Tremewan, and the previous team members, we are very well served indeed.

The four Christchurch team members who produce Circle magazine, headed by the experienced and inspired Roberta Smith, are staying the same for one more year. It is an essential tool of our communication to all members.

Blessings

Raewyn Dawson, President

The Association of Anglican Women, Diocese of Christchurch