

ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN'S REPORT TO SYNOD

MEMBERSHIP: At the end of 2019 our AAW membership in the Diocese continues at about 600 members, and twenty-three groups. The Hokitika group closed at the end of 2019.

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.

THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE: During 2019 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, attended our executive meetings held every two months. Her loyal support of AAW is greatly appreciated. Jenny Glasson, resigned from our Executive Committee, to be Secretary of the St Barnabas, Fendalton In Between group. Patricia Owen took over as Minute taker. All other members will continue for another year – we are greatly blessed by their loyalty and hard work.

In 2019, the Diocesan executive committee members promoted stationery during the year and continue to sell AAW cards to groups. Two different sizes of cards are available – small cards in packets of 6 for \$3, and large cards in packets of 5 for \$5. This project is to raise money for our contribution to NZ AAW's commitment to support overseas missionaries. Our Diocesan AAW membership numbers have diminished, and some AAW members have difficulty paying their \$8 donation as requested by NZ AAW.

SPECIAL JOYS: We celebrated our Golden Jubilee of AAW in 2019 with many special celebrations nationally and in each Diocese. The celebrations gave a lift to the Association of Anglican Women who celebrated in style and gave thanks for the past 50 years of service in AAW. A commemorative badge was made and given to members throughout New Zealand who had been financial member for "50 Years In AAW".

SPECIAL EVENTS: A special event for me was the Commissioning Service held in St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington, on 29th September, 2019, presided by Dean David Rowe, when I was commissioned as the Association of Anglican Women's New Zealand President for the next three years.

After four years as the AAW Diocesan President, I tried to find a replacement for the position, but without success, hence, I am continuing for another year. Please contact me if you know of any suitable person who would take over this position which is not an onerous task. This year has been different and strange to all of us having been in lockdown for nearly two months due to the Covid-19 world-wide pandemic.

Activities planned for this year are to help groups retain their membership and loyalty to AAW through their monthly group activities. Next year, in 2021, the NZAAW conference will be held in Christchurch, at St Margaret's College, in the April school holidays, organized by the Christchurch AAW team on the New Zealand Executive.

Emerging issues for our groups of AAW in the Diocese are leadership roles and membership. We are using social media having a national Facebook page and a website: nzaaw.org.nz. A new group has formed in Auckland as the result of our advertising brochure and contact through our Facebook link.

The first NZAAW Executive meeting for 2020 was held in Christchurch on Saturday, 14 March, 2020 and we were fortunate to have this meeting just before lockdown. The publication of our Circle magazine for May, 2020 was put together during lockdown and printed as soon as possible at the beginning of May, 2020. We look forward to more normal activities later this year.

Judith Mackenzie

The Association Anglican Women New Zealand President.
Association of Anglican Women Diocese of Christchurch - President,
05/06/2020