

I have pleasure in presenting my New Zealand Association of Anglican Women (NZAAW) to General Synod 2024.

**Background**

I have been a member of the Association of Anglican Women for several years. More recently I have taken on leadership roles within the association. Previously, I have been Waiapu Diocesan President and attended NZAAW Executive meetings in that capacity. I took on the Vice President’s role that lead to me being elected NZAAW President in May 2023. Over the weekend of May 13-14 the Waiapu diocese hosted the Executive Committee, (representatives from 7 dioceses throughout New Zealand) at All Saints Church Taradale. A commissioning service for the committee and myself as NZAAW President for New Zealand and Polynesia, was held at St John’s Cathedral Napier. I Want to acknowledge the love and support I have received from both executive committees and Association members.

**Aims of the Association**

To unite in Prayer and participate in the mission of the Church

This was achieved recently when AAW members raised $10.000 for a canteen at the Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School in Suva Fiji.

To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Our social concerns convenor promotes this aim by advocating for children and their families.

**Challenges**

We have an ageing membership. Groups are closing, with members reluctant to take on leadership roles. Attracting younger members has been a challenge. They are the ‘sandwich generation’ They are having children later and working full or part time with the cost of living rising. They are often supporting older parents. They also have a wider selection of activities and leisure groups to choose from.

**Circle Magazine**

Changes have been made to this publication. We have changed from four editions a year, to two editions, supplemented by two newsletters. The rational for this decision was the cost of publication, postage and getting a copy out over the holiday period when groups are not meeting.

**Closer ties with Mother’s Unio**n

The Rev’d Sarah Pigeon approached me to suggest that we as Christian Anglican women combine to celebrate International Women’s Day in March with Evening Prayer online. Planning is underway for this initiative.

**NZAAW Triennial Conference**

 This year we are holding our Triennial Conference. It will be held at Woodford House, the Anglican Girls College in Havelock North (April 19 -21). Planning is well underway for this event with the theme of Peace. The themes for the next three years are Prayer, Praise and Purpose.

**Other Church Events**

 To represent the membership, I have attended three Church services Two were held at St Matthews Church in Hastings. Firstly, a service on July 9 2023,commemorating 150 years of the founding of the city of Hastings. Secondly, an Interfaith service celebrating religious diversity. Thirdly, an invitation to attend an annual Advent service at St Columba’s Presbyterian Church in Havelock North.

**Waiapu Diocesan Synod September 2023**

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this Synod. I had to attend a NZAAW Executive meeting in Wellington as NZAAW President but a report.

Dr Cynthia Prince
NZAAW President

for New Zealand and Polynesia.