

A Brief History

The concept of the Women's Auxiliary (W.A.) is built around self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The origin dates back to 1939 when the then Bishop of Jamaica, sent a request on behalf of the Church in Jamaica to the Bishop of Long Island, in New York, USA. The Bishop had his own challenges and indicated that he was unable to assist as his Diocese was overwhelmed with appeals for help from many churches and organizations. He, however, sent literature on how to set up the Women's Auxiliary which fostered ideals of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

In July 1940 the Bishop, following discussions, made a decision to establish a Women's Auxiliary here in Jamaica. and In October 1940 the Women's Auxiliary was launched with a mandate to undertake fund raising for the **Diocesan Pastoral Aid Fund**. The first churches in which the W.A. was formed were - St. Andrew Parish Church, St. Michael's and All Angels, St. Luke's and St. George's all in the Kingston Region. The idea spread and other branches followed shortly after. In 1961, the W.A. headquarters was built on land donated by the Diocese adjacent to Church House.

The structure of the Executive Committee of the W.A. consists of the following officers: President; Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; Public Relations Officer (PRO); Assistant PRO; and from each branch the Chairman and a representative. Recently, a Patron - an honorary appointment - was added.

The motto of the W.A. is **"Worship, Work, and Witness"**, and membership is open to women of all ages who are confirmed members of the Anglican Church.

The **Diocesan Pastoral Aid Fund**, for which the organization raises funds, is administered by the Diocesan Bishop and it is used for:

Assisting in the restoration of dormant cures – where the membership is unable to provide the funds needed for clergy stipends.

Building new churches- St. Paul's in Portmore.

Augmenting pensions of retired clergy and widows/widowers.

January 6, the Feast of Epiphany is a special day, referred to as Bishop's Day, as each year members from all the branches meet with the Diocesan Bishop. The programme for the day includes Holy Eucharist, a business session where the Bishop reports on how the funds from the Diocesan Pastoral Aid Fund were utilized over the last year and presentation of funds from the branches for the current year.

The Women's Auxiliary assists in other areas of Church life, such as:

- Actively participating in the management of the Bishop Gibson Home for the Aged (project of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in association with the W.A.) and providing financial assistance.

- Assisting the Youth and Education Department of the Diocese by providing funds for example to produce literature for use in our Sunday Schools.
- Assisting Anglican Basic and Primary schools in the corporate area and rural Jamaica.
- Encouraging Christian values amongst its members.

In many Churches the W.A. is the most active organization and a beacon of Anglican mission. Members are engaged in various activities. They visit the sick and shut in members, assist with Sunday School, volunteer in the Altar Guild and the Choir.

As the W.A. celebrates this milestone, its members are committed to continue to work towards achieving the Diocesan vision and to play their part in advancing the Marks of Mission as the Anglican Church serves the wider Jamaican society.



A message from the Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary

It is indeed an honour and privilege to be the Chairman of this noble organization at this time when we celebrate seventy five (75) years of existence.

We thank God for the vision of our founding members who worked unceasingly to build the organization from its inception in 1940 and for those members who throughout the 75 years continue the work despite the many challenges facing our country and the Diocese.

We also give God thanks for our achievements of the 75 years and pray for spiritual and physical strength for the future; so with grateful hearts, we can truly say "to God be the Glory". We ask for God's continued blessings on all our members as we "Worship, Work and Witness".

Veronica Burbage



The Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



The Women's Auxiliary Prayer

O Almighty God, Whose Blessed Son was pleased to accept the ministration of women, accept we pray Thee the worship, work and witness of the Women's Auxiliary in this Diocese. Help us to seek to know Thy will and to dedicate our lives to serve Thee where we are needed. Bless our Bishops and Clergy and unite us all in one purpose and faith for the welfare of Thy Church and the glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Bishop of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands

At this point in our national life when we are confronted by some very challenging economic realities, it seems appropriate that the Women's Auxiliary should be marking a significant anniversary and staging this Function as one of its activities. The W.A. can serve as a paradigm of the kind of corporate and strategic response which we need as a nation to address this situation, and which is the very context out of which the Organization came into existence.

Faced with serious financial challenges in the 1930's, the incumbent Diocesan Bishop was somewhat at his wits end regarding a strategy for resolving this crisis. It is as a response to this situation and on the advice of a colleague Bishop from the United States of America that this organization of women was born to raise funds for the Pastoral Aid Fund, thereby alleviating the plight of many Cures and congregations in the exercise of their mission and ministry.

From the timely beginning, the Organization has now grown to become a pivotal aspect of the life of this Diocese. Guided by its principles of Worship, Work and Witness, it now works assiduously through its many branches to raise the funds that now assist Cures that face challenges in terms of their financial viability, provides for pension support for retired clergy, as well as assist with emergency health and other needs which may arise from time to time.

It is, therefore, a pleasant task to wish the members of the Auxiliary every success in the staging of this celebration, and express the hope that it will not only be an occasion for healthy fellowship and fun, but a successful fund-raising event as well.

Rt. Rev. Howard K. Gregory, DD., STD.

Messages from *The Suffragan Bishop of Kingston,*

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings to the Diocesan Women's Auxiliary on the occasion of your 75th Anniversary.

From inception you have worked assiduously in your efforts towards the Diocesan Pastoral Aid Fund which is your primary concern. In addition, due regard must be taken of those additional projects which in your humane interest for the good of others you have taken on board in a quiet and efficient manner. Your generosity in service and humility in success over the years is a credit to your continued deep commitment to Christ and His Mission I have no doubt that your impact on mission in each of your individual churches and Deaneries is an example of what is possible.

May I congratulate you on what you have so far achieved and at the same time challenge you to continue in faith with the zeal and passion for which your efforts have become a hallmark. May you, with God's help, continue from strength to strength.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert M. Thompson

The Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary.

The Women's Auxiliary continues to demonstrate that nothing is impossible with faith and hard work. Over the years, you have shown that records are set to be broken by your tremendous contribution to the work of the Diocese through the Diocesan Pastoral Aid Fund. Your efforts have been achieved through regular worship, hard work and your continued witness to Christ and His Church.

As the Women's Auxiliary reflects on the years past, may they inspire the members to a deeper commitment, greater creativity and higher heights. My prayer is that your celebrations will be a blessing and will further strengthen you in your service to Christ and His Church, and in the extension of God's Kingdom.

Happy Anniversary!

Rt. Rev. Leon Golding

The President of *The Women's Auxiliary*

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts." (Psalm 105: 1-2 NIV)

As the Women's Auxiliary celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, I regard it as a privilege and an honour to be a part of this august body.

We in the Women's Auxiliary are very thankful and grateful to God who has guided us throughout these 75 years to carry out His work in the Vineyard and to make a difference in the lives of many. We thank those dedicated servants who were given the charge to seek to be self-reliant and provide valuable and needed service in the pastoral and development programmes of the Diocese. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the pioneers started the movement in faith and I commend all those who have persevered over the years to continue the contribution to the Women's Auxiliary. It is our prayer that others will be touched and will respond to the call to serve.

There have been many challenges over the period but with God at the helm we have been able to pursue our mission of Worship Work and Witness to His honour and glory. I ask you our dedicated and committed members to keep the spirit of the Women's Auxiliary alive so that we can pass on to the next generation the qualities of service generosity and strong leadership. Let us count our blessings, accept adversity as a part of life, be grateful and maintain a positive outlook in all we do

We appreciate and thank all who have taken the time to celebrate this joyous milestone with us. May God's richest blessings be with you all.

Kirby Lillian Clarke