

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

President's Letter October, 2023

Dear Sisters,

We are in October already. Soon we will all be thinking of Christmas but let's not rush into that too soon. I, for one, want to enjoy autumn.

This is the time that the trees lose their leaves and rest for the winter, ready to blossom in the spring. Some animals will hibernate. They will be getting their store of food ready for their 'winter sleep'.

It always strikes me that this is a time of calm and rest, preparing for new life and adventures in the spring. Also, it is a time to praise the Lord for all his good work and many of us will be having, or have had, our harvest service to praise Him. Verse 4 of Psalm 95 expresses this – "In God's hand are the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains are his also."

The Executive met recently and it was brought to their attention that some sisters were not fully aware of how we chose a theme for the coming year and maybe their suggestion had not been considered. All suggestions are considered but we need to be aware that the Devotional Secretary has to write nine papers during the ensuing year. Some themes are very similar, and some can be very restrictive. It is possible that the title you suggested is used but not as the title given. However, if you feel that your suggestions were not used you can put it forward again in the next or another year. Please let me assure you that we do consider all themes put forward and discuss them thoroughly but the secretary at the time must feel they can 'run' with the theme chosen.

I hope this explains and assures you that we do not pass over your choice without full consideration. It is always difficult to please all our members, but I think you will agree our Devotional Secretaries do produce excellent papers from the themes chosen.

The retreat was held the first weekend in September and Sr Clare Maxwell led this. All the sisters who attended had a wonderful time of fellowship and I would encourage more of you to attend. It is good to get to know each other in a relaxed surrounding and a weekend is much better than just a day.

We are at present planning our next MWA Day. This will be at Hall Green again, as it was better for more sisters to attend. Put the date in your diary - 13th April, 2024.

I hope you all have a good October.

The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.

Yours in Christ

Sr Gillian Taylor