



# Poets Corner

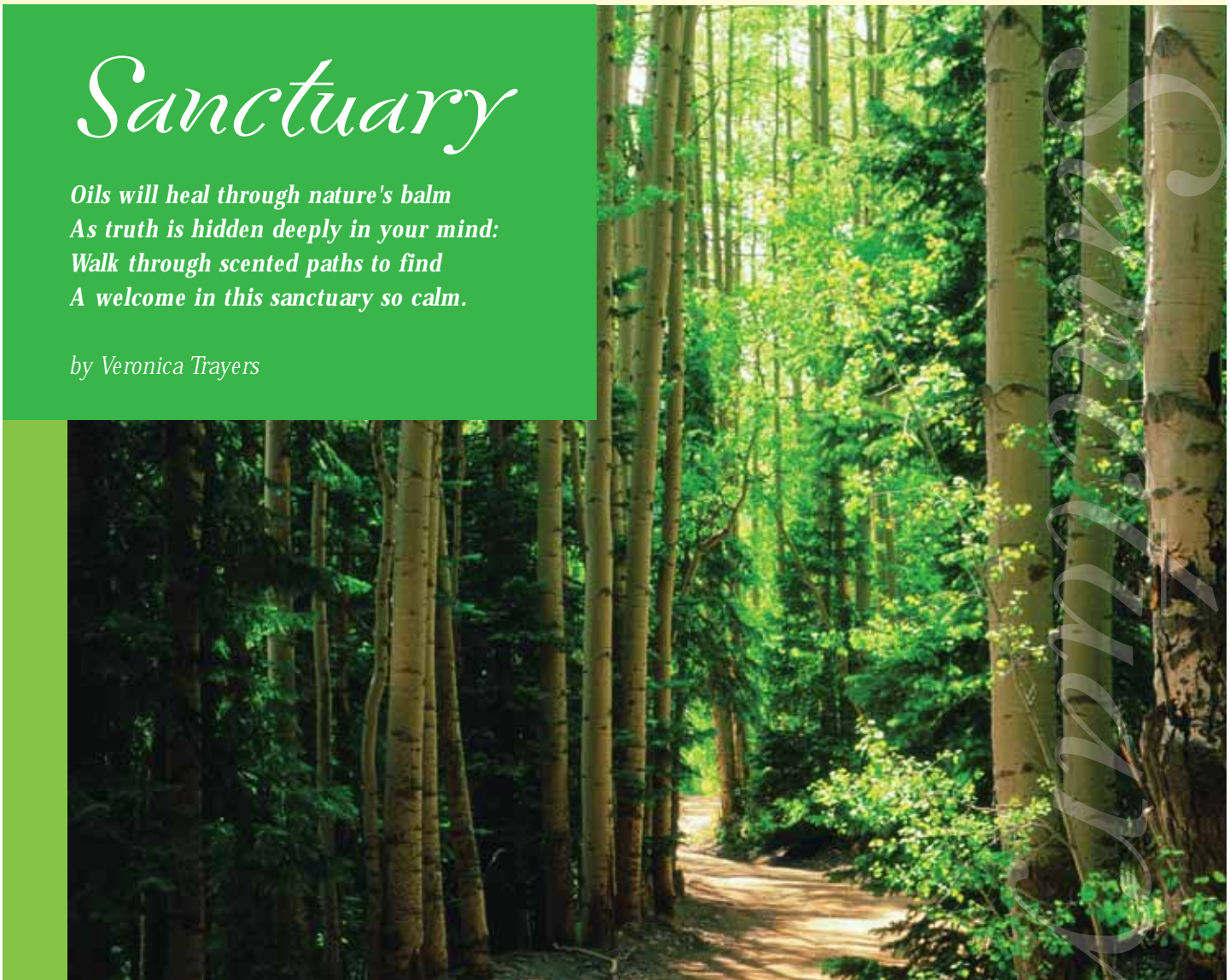
Pat Daly

*Such is the pace of life nowadays, and so myriad are the attendant distractions, complications, irritations and difficulties, regular access to a haven providing detachment and tranquility should be regarded as a priority for the sake of wellbeing. Unpeopled beaches, woodlands, hills and boglands would fit the bill very well. So, for that matter, would the space between the covers of a book, particularly if it held poems like Veronica Trayers' Sanctuary. There are only four lines but condensed therein is a soothing sense of quietude which is beautifully effective.*

## Sanctuary

*Oils will heal through nature's balm  
As truth is hidden deeply in your mind:  
Walk through scented paths to find  
A welcome in this sanctuary so calm.*

by Veronica Trayers



*Commendably, from time to time contributors to our poetry feature have used their poetic voices to speak out on serious issues, doing so with great effect. Now, Siobhan Quigley, whose repertoire is broad and varied, takes the thorny and controversial question of apartheid as a theme.*

*The imagery of the opening stanza, with its built-in contrast, is impressive. Then the voice takes on a pleading, engagingly-insistent tone with echoes of Martin Luther King, of Pete Seeger, of Nelson Mandela, of Robert Burns. It is a voice that will not go away until the issue is finally put to rights.*

# Apartheid

*The hands of uniformed  
Killers hug weapons -  
The materialistic live.  
Each coloured hand  
Clutches a single  
Coloured flower.*

*'Peace brothers!  
What divides us?  
Is it our pigmentary  
Dispositions?*

*'We have no weapons!  
Our heart is our only weapon,  
The will to be one.  
Why do you hate us so much?  
We have no lives ...*

*'Have you no minds  
To do what is right?  
We only want peace.*

*'Disarm yourselves,  
We want to forgive.  
The reason is one;  
We are one too.'*

*by Siobhan Quigley*

