

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

NEWSLETTER

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From Bishop Jeremy Greaves, Chair AMS Australia



Christianity has, from the very beginning been as much about practice as it has been about belief.

The early community that followed Jesus was a community of practice. Jesus's followers did not sit around a fire and listen to lectures on theology. They listened to stories that taught them how to act toward one another, what to do in the world. They healed people, offered hospitality, prayed together, challenged traditional practices and rituals, ministered to the sick, comforted the grieving, fasted and forgave. These actions included wonder, gave them courage, empowered hope, and opened up a new vision of God. By doing things together, they began to see differently... Jesus did not walk by the Sea of Galilee and shout to fishermen, "Have faith!" Instead, he asked them to do something: "Follow me." When they followed, he gave them more things to do. At first he demonstrated what he wanted them to do. Then he did it with them. Finally, he sent them out to do it themselves, telling them to proclaim God's reign and cure the sick. When they returned from this first mission, they could not believe what had happened. They discovered that proclaiming the kingdom was not a matter of teaching doctrine; rather, the kingdom was a matter of imitating Jesus's actions. Diana Butler Bass, [Christianity After Religion](#)

At least one study from the US shows that there is a link between “personal spiritual practices” and congregational vitality, suggesting that the “more emphasis a congregation gives to the value of home and personal religious practices the higher the congregation’s vitality and the more likely it is to be growing in membership. (

http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/roozen_article5.html)

One of the things that attracted me to the AMS and to taking on the role of Chair was the sense that AMS is, at its heart, about the practice of the faith. What does faith look like when it is not simply something we “believe” but something that informs how we live – what we do?

The past few months have given us plenty of time for thinking. Life as we knew it has been disrupted in ways we might never have imagined. Our faith too has been challenged. We have been confronted again with the age-old questions of “Where is God in this?” and “Why does God allow such things?” We have also been challenged to ask questions of how we practice our faith. “What does it mean when I can’t go to worship?” “Do we really need church buildings?”

My hope is that some people have discovered that they can actually practice their faith at home and have discovered the joy and challenge of regular bible reading or the discipline of daily prayer and that these practices will remain even when regular Sunday worship resumes.

I sense too that this is a good opportunity for members of the AMS to reflect on our Objects and what it might mean for us to truly commit to them.

To set forth the glory of God.

To promote a feeling of spiritual enthusiasm in its members.

To encourage its members to play an active part in the Ministry of the Church.

To encourage its members to undertake study in the faith and its application to the issues of everyday life.

To encourage its members to undertake acts of Christian service for the distressed, disadvantaged or disabled.

To provide Christian fellowship within the Church.

To promote the work of the Church amongst her youth.

To encourage acts of mission by its members.

To promote Christian principles in the National and civic life of

the community. To be active in personal service for the Church and in involving others within the parish and beyond. These are all things we can practice and speak of a faith that is not just confined to what we believe. The Rule of Life and the Objects give us a sense of what a “lived faith” might look like and what it might mean to live as a “community of practice. If we use this time to re-commit to these things then perhaps like the earliest disciples, *we will discover again that proclaiming the kingdom [is] not a matter of teaching doctrine; rather, the kingdom [is] a matter of imitating Jesus’s actions.* I wish you every blessing during these challenging times.
+Jeremy

What a Blessing it has been for AMS that- in these COVID-19 times- we have still been able to ‘Meet Together’ – though via ZOOM technology. That enabled us to formally Invest Bishop Jeremy Greaves as our new National Chairman- and better still that the Investiture was directed by our former National Chairman, Bishop John Stead- so many involved, so far physically apart, but spiritually- and mostly visually- together.

In this Newsletter is Bishop Jeremy’s first of what will be many great contributions to Members- and the photo accompanying is a bonus! Bishop Jeremy was interviewed by Brian Bluey for 15 minutes on radio 2NBC 90.1 FM on Monday August 3 (arranged by Neil McMullen) I hope Members were able to tune in after I sent advise about this Broadcast- it was good to hear something of our new Chairman’s life experiences- and he has agreed to more interviews in the future.

The present position of National Secretary of AMS is in an Acting capacity by Trevor Cowell of Tasmania. Trevor has indicated that he will continue in the position until the National Conference at Launceston in September 2021 (all being post COVID-19!).

(We acknowledge of course the long tenure of stewardship that was provided by Ivan Holt OAM)

It appears to me that we do not have an offer from the Membership of a replacement for Trevor- at this stage.

My suggestion is that we employ Bishop Jeremy's secretary for a period per week to be the National Secretary of AMS. This would also enable Bishop Jeremy to maintain a close contact with activities of the AMS. right across Australia

Bishop Jeremy is based in Brisbane and it might also be applicable for the secretary to assist with the running of the Queensland AMS.

I recommend that we discuss this proposal at our ZOOM conference in September

Neil McMullen
AMS New South Wales

LEN EVANS

Unfortunately in this otherwise celebratory Newsletter a bit of sad news: we record the death of Len Evans - with grateful thanks to Almighty God for his year's of AMS and general Christian service: Ivan Holt OAM has contributed the following:

LEN EVANS 1929 – 2020.

Len and Vivienne Evans came to Australia as assisted migrants and settled in Melbourne. Len found employment with the Victorian Government Dental Service in the administration side of this service. The Dental Service had mobile units which travelled to all State Schools in Victoria.

Len and Vivienne had no children but Len adopted the Anglican Men's Society as his other hobby to go along his hobby of gardening. Both have been parishioners at this Church and Len was the Secretary of the St. Matthew's AMS branch for many years. I do not know when Len first joined AMS but he became a member of the Diocesan Executive and in 1973 was elected as their secretary - a post he served in with distinction for 35 years.

In 1994 he also became the editor of the AMS Bulletin published by the Melbourne Executive - 5 issues per year for 23 years! He was also involved with two AMS Welfare Organisations - The AMS Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc. as Secretary and The Tyler House Trust as a Trustee.

His other great commitment was the AMS annual Book Fairs selling good quality S/H Books. These commenced in 1977 generally occupied one Saturday in July each year. Some 10,000 books would be displayed in categories and these events were very popular with S/H booksellers from all over Victoria. The last Book Fair was held in 2017 at Holy Trinity Oakleigh. Len and Ken McKay would sort and price books for six months prior to sale day and later Jeff Layther was also involved in this task.

For many years AMS Melbourne held a breakfast once a month on a Saturday morning at various churches around Melbourne - the last venue being Holy Trinity, Oakleigh. Len organized the catering for these breakfasts for many years and provide porridge in large quantities - following the meal Len and others would sort and price books in the AMS shed.

For many years the St. Matthew's branch would host the annual AMS Dinner in the Hall next door. These were very happy occasions involving much work for Len and local members.

Len's commitment to AMS was recognized in 1990 when he received a Life Membership of the organization. Put in simple terms - Len was the glue which kept AMS in Victoria running for many years.

Len was a man of strong faith and assisted in many capacities at St. Matthews, Cheltenham and on moving to the Cheltenham Manor he missed his church services.

Ivan Holt OAM-

News from Australia's Covid - 19 Capital.

We are in lockdown No.2 in Melbourne until 20th August having survived the first lockdown. This means Pubs, Churches, Cafes and Restaurants are shut apart from take-away meals in some businesses. AMS branches have not been meeting and we watch services from St. Paul's Cathedral on the computer.

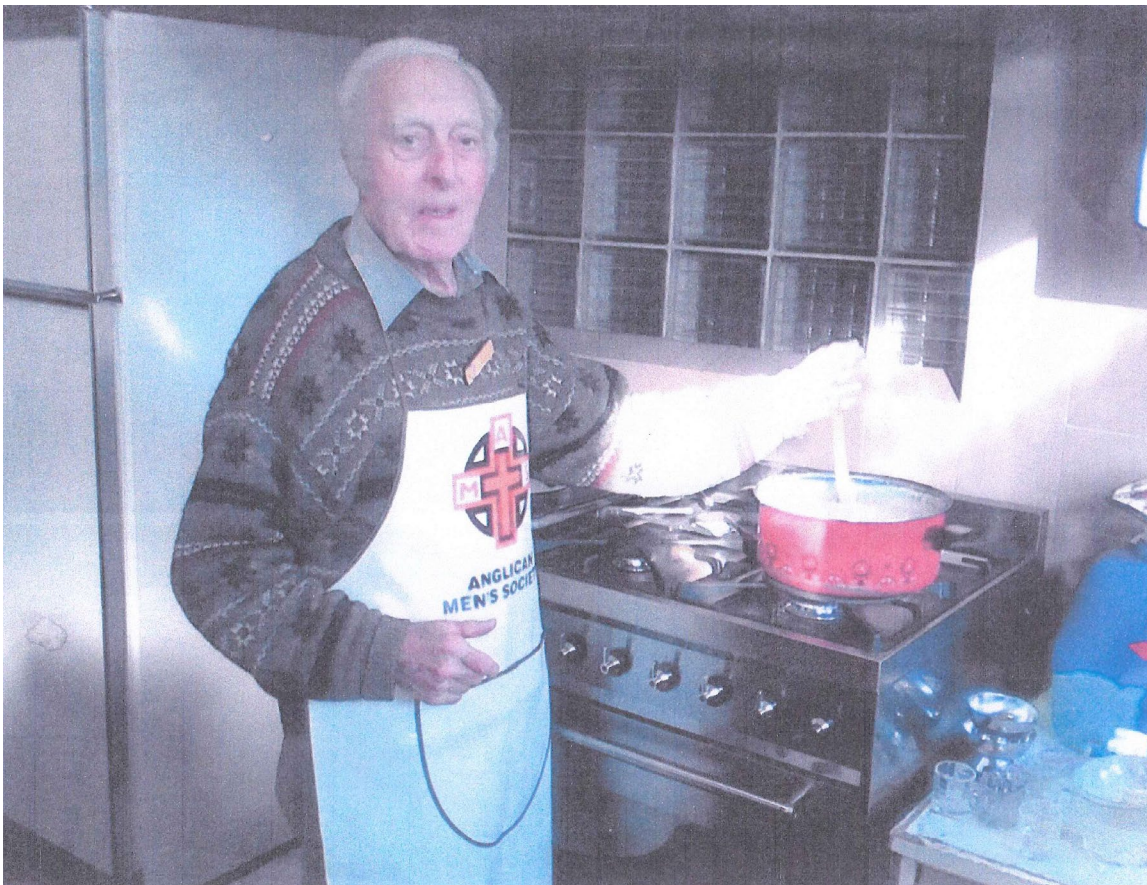
Unfortunately this time the number of virus cases has multiplied and residential care homes have become infected. In this climate it is sad to report that Len Evans died overnight peacefully and suddenly on 8th July and his funeral was held at

St. Matthew's Church, Cheltenham on Friday 17th July – Len's 91st Birthday.

The numbers attending were restricted to ten. The Rev Colleen Clayton and Andre Hassing led the service, Warren Cole, Ivan Holt and Dell Pay represented AMS in Melbourne. We celebrated Len's great contribution to St. Matthews and also to AMS in Victoria where with many other involvements he was the Diocesan Secretary for 35 years. He and Vivienne migrated to Australia from London and Len did not take on local citizenship. I suspect his reason for this action was the fact he had a twin brother included in thirteen siblings back in the UK. The family ties were very strong! Among his many contributions was making porridge to AMS and Church breakfasts and his planning and organizing the annual AMS Book Fairs. Len was the glue which held AMS Victoria together for all those years – Len received a Life Membership of AMS in 1990 – Well done Len – a life of faith and dedication.

Our condolences go to Vivienne and Len's family.

Ivan Holt – AMS Secretary



“A man was very sick. Doctors feared the worst, He is at home one day, resting in his bed and says ,”Is my wife here”

His wife replies. “Yes dear, I’m here, next to you.”

The man goes, “Are my children here?”

“Yes, Daddy, we are all here,” says the children

“Are my other relatives also here?”

And they say, “Yes, we are all here...”

The man sits up and says,..

“Then why in the world is the light on in the kitchen?”

A contribution from Neil McMullen:

Below are the minutes and agenda of my Zoom meeting with Bishop Jeremy on July 17. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Item 1

Neil reported to the Bishop the present situation of membership in New South Wales. He said that we had 12 members four of whom were in the Diocese of Sydney.

Item 2

The Diocese of Newcastle fully supported the work of AMS and a report of the activity of AMS is submitted each year to the Synod of Newcastle Diocese.

In November of last year Neil attended the provincial synod of New South Wales representing the Diocese of Newcastle.

At the Synod Neil made a point of meeting with all the Bishops in New South Wales and he found that they had little or no knowledge of the activities of AMS. Bishop Jeremy and I discussed the possibility of contacting each of the Bishops with a view of introducing AMS to each of the Dioceses.

Additionally the possibility of amalgamation with the Mother's Union. The analogy is that from the clergy point of view there is now male and female priests. The combination of male and female laypeople would add strength to the small membership of AMS. This would also promote one of the ideals of AMS that being that the organisation as a liaison between clergy and lay people. Neil thought that we should promote this idea.

Item 3

Our present activities in New South Wales

On an annual basis we distribute 100 AMS diaries, across parishes in the Diocese of Newcastle. These Diaries and their distribution is an avenue to promote AMS and could be done through each Diocese in New South Wales.

Up to 5 years ago AMS had conducted for some 30 years a weekend for men in the Diocese of Newcastle, and over recent years we have combined with an

evangelical section of the Diocese in running a weekend and it was used to promote AMS.

Over recent years in Diocesan publications we have advertised a speaker facility for men's meeting but have only received the occasional request.

Item 4

The problem of theology in NSW

This was discussed with Bishop Jeremy and resolved that if we could interest Sydney membership could be increased. Sydney was our centre up till 22 years or so after the war world War two. They have a very strong men's organisation and it would be good to establish a relationship with them. Perhaps an attempt by Bishop Jeremy to each Diocese as time allows with Neil developing the liaison further from the contacts he has made with each of the Bishops in NSW

Item 5

Use of radio and Facebook

Neil explained to the Bishop that he had conducted a time with 2NBC 90.1 FM for the past five years. After discussion it was arranged that Bishop Jeremy would take the time slot on Monday 3rd of August to promote AMS.

Access to our Facebook page will be arranged shortly so that Bishop Jeremy can use it to promote AMS

Neil McMullen

An item from Ivan Holt OAM:

"The oldest person to die from the Covid-19 virus in Melbourne this week was Mrs Evelyn Dibbs, aged 103. During the 1970's she was employed by AMS in Melbourne to run the AMS office at St. Paul's Cathedral. In 1979 she volunteered to keep records at the emergency department at The Royal Melbourne, on a Thursday every week. This she did she did for 36 years and finally retired at the age of 98! Her story was featured in Saturday's (August 1) Sun Herald covering two pages."

(Trevor tried to find a copy of that newspaper but was unsuccessful- Victorian Members may have one)

AMS Diaries for 2021:

The final draft for these is at the Melbourne Printing factory and the anticipated date for distribution was mid September : However, the following just received may affect this: I will keep Members informed.

Dear Customer,

We met last night with the Printing Industry Association and were informed that under the Stage 4 Lockdown we are still able to operate our business as we are Category 2.

Our employees as well as our customers are important to us and we will be following strict infection control procedures at our workplace and homes.

We are sure that all Victorians will come out the other side of this crisis.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact me and I will reassure you of our position.

We will also keep you up to date of any changes that the government may make during the next 6 weeks.

Both Brian and myself ask you to stay safe and strong during these challenging times.

Regards
Shane Dummett
Director
Valiant Press

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8 Elliot Place Ringwood Victoria 3134



Pictures, parables and perspectives

REFLECTIONS

“Sometimes just a small shift in perspective can completely change our understanding of something and from then on, we can never go back,” says **Bishop Jeremy Greaves**

“As a child I was captivated by optical illusions. My Year 5 teacher Mr McGowan introduced me to the work of famous graphic artist M.C. Escher and I pored over his images in a school library book trying to make sense of the drawings. There were staircases that wound around and around always going up but never getting anywhere. A hand drawing a hand where the beginning and the end seemed interchangeable. Pictures of fish that became birds where it was never quite clear when the transformation took place.

(Ed: Some may recall the front illustration on the old Weeties boxes?)

A few years on I was introduced to Magic Eye books – those infuriating pictures that looked like one thing until you managed to focus (or unfocus) your gaze just right and suddenly a hidden image was revealed...and once you had seen the hidden image that was often all you could see from then on.

Sometimes just a small shift in perspective can completely change our understanding of something and from then on, we can never go back.

I recently read a short reflection on the parable of the widow and the judge (Luke 18.1-8). While Luke suggests that the parable is a teaching on prayer and the importance of persistence in prayer, commentators have always struggled to make sense of it, since scholars would argue that the explanation is a later addition – a piece of early commentary much like the explanation of the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.18-23. In the reflection I read, six words transformed my understanding of the parable and changed the way I have read it for 30 years. “What if the widow is God?” It was not a question I had ever even considered asking and having asked the question, I will never read the parable the same way again.

In his Easter sermon this year, recorded at his kitchen table, the Archbishop of Canterbury invited us to imagine a different future. He said, “After so much suffering, so much heroism from key workers and the NHS, so much effort, once this epidemic is conquered here and round the world, we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all is normal. There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it because it is the gift of God. Then we must build it in partnership with God.”

The past few months have given us all a change in perspective. We have seen and experienced God’s church in ways we might never have imagined before. In some places, old arguments about service times have been made meaningless by online worship. In some places people have discovered new ways of praying, new ways of being the church. Whatever it is that we have learnt from this time, there is no going back, and the challenge issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury is a clarion call to action as we emerge into whatever future we imagine: “Something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it... then we must build it...”

Writing in *The New York Times* this week, Lutheran Pastor Emily Scott, offers this challenge in slightly different terms, “Shaken from our routines, many are asking new questions. Do we really need to spend hours commuting? Should work be such a priority when our parents won’t be around forever? Why not make that change we’ve dreamed of now? Societally, there’s sudden clarity as well. We see the perilous failures of a health care system that leaves so many to fend for themselves, an economy that leaves so little margin for disaster. We can see the vast liabilities of the old life...Instead of clamoring to go “back”, we can turn, and face into a future that is uncertain, but rife with possibilities.”

Christian Thoughts

- I am the tool with which God works. My virtue is to participate in this work, and I can do so if I keep the instrument which is given to me, namely my soul, in immaculate condition. Leo Tolstoy
- God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails. Unknown
- I want what God wants, that’s why I am so merry. Francis of Assisi

“A young doctor was just setting up his first office.

His secretary told him there was a man to see him. The doctor wanted to make the man think that he was successful and very busy. So, he told his secretary to show the man in and at that moment he picked up his phone and pretended to be having a conversation with a patient.

The man waited patiently until the "conversation" was completed.

Once he hung up, the doctor asked, "Can I help you?"

To which the man replied "No, I'm just here to connect your telephone."

Ivan Holt OAM sent this interesting list!

CEMS / AMS ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS.

National President		Title change to			
Rt Rev G M Long	1920 - 1924	National Clerical Vice Chairman			
Rt Rev L Radford	1924 - 1926	Rev W G Nicholson	1982 – 1984		
Rt Rev G H Cranswick	1926 – 1936	Rev L W Carroll	1984 – 1992		
Rt Rev J S Hart	1936 – 1947	Rev B J Hoare	1992 – 1996		
Rt Rev J S Moyes	1947 – 1960	Ven B J Hoare	1996 - 2002		
RT Rev R E Richards	1960 - 1969	Rt Rev D Bowden	2002 – 2004		
Rt Rev F O Hulme-Moir	1969 – 1975	Rt Rev R Beal	2005 – 2007		
Rt Rev R E Wicks	1975 – 1981	Rt Rev T Wilmot	2008 - 2014		
Title change to		vacant			
National Chairman					
Rt Rev R E Wicks	1981 – 1982	National Secretary			
Rt Rev G H Walden	1983 – 1993	R Ruegg	1920 – 1921		
Rt Rev C Sheumack	1993 – 2005	Rev A R Ebbs	1921 - 1924		
Rt Rev R W Hurford	2005 - 2011	D G Palmer	1924 – 1926		
Rt Rev J Stead	2013 - 2020	R P Allnutt	1926 - 1927		
Rt Rev J Greaves	2020 -	W G Cramer	1927 – 1929		
National Lay Vice President		J McCarthy	1929 – 1932		
The Hon L E Groom	1920 – 1921	G E James	1932 – 1936		
L V Biggs	1921 – 1924	W F Rowe	1936 – 1946		

R Ruegg	1921 – 1926	Rev C R C Tidmarsh	1946 – 1949		
W Halcombe	1924 – 1933	A G James	1949 – 1972		
The Hon L E Groom	1926 – 1933	A W Lacey	1972 – 1985		
Sir Littleton Groom	1933 – 1936	J T Ridge	1986 - 1999		
R. Ruegg	1936 – 1943	Ven B J Hoare	2000 – 2001		
W F Rowe	1947 – 1951	J T Ridge	2001 – 2002		
A Hope	1951 – 1954	I A Holt	2003 - 2019		
H W Brown	1954 – 1956	T. Cowell	2019 -		
L T Muir	1956 – 1969				
M E Dunn	1969 – 1972				
A G James	1972 – 1975				
Dr K J McKay	1975 – 1981				
Title change to					
National Lay Vice Chairman		Editor – Australian Churchman			
H D V Boddy	1982 – 1993	Rev W G Hilliard	1926 - 1927		
J C Jones	1993 – 2006	Rev R H B Williams	1927 – 1937		
T Cowell	2006 - 2017	Rev C R C Tidmarsh	1937 – 1947		
A. Brodersen	2017 -	Rev W C S Johnson	1947 – 1951		
		F H Gaunston	1951 – 1964		
National Clerical Vice President		A G James & I Serres	1964 – 1970		
Rt Rev J S Hart	1933 – 1936	Editor - Newsletter			
Rt Rev J S Moyes	1936 – 1947	A W Lacey	1977 – 1985		
Rt Rev D Blackwood	1947 – 1960	J T Ridge	1985 – 2003		
Rt Rev R C Kerle	1960 – 1969	I A Holt	2003 - 2019		
Rev Canon J Madden	1969 – 1972	T. Cowell	2020 -		
Rev Canon W C Childs	1972 – 1978				
Rev W G Nicholson	1980 – 1981				
National Treasurer		Honorary National Vice Presidents			
H C Byrne	1920 – 1924	Rt Rev R E Wicks	1987		
W N Vindin	1924 – 1928	Dr K J McKay	1987		
S F Jessop	1928 – 1929	Rev W G Nicholson	1987		
D P Israel	1929	H D V Boddy	1987		
G E James	1929 – 1933				
H Field	1933				
F Shann	1933 – 1936				
W F Rowe	1936 – 1937				
W G Cramer	1937				
F H Gaunston	1937 – 1964				
H A Day	1964 – 1972				
A W Lacey	1972 – 1975				
Rev W G Nicholson	1975 – 1980				
J T Ridge	1980 – 1986				
R J Hodgson	1986 – 1990				
K W Kerr	1990 – 1993				

I A Holt	1993 – 2002		
N McMullen	2003 - 2014		
G. Foster	2014 -		

From the Queensland Branch:

On behalf of all A.M.S. members in Australia we warmly welcome our new National Chairman Bishop Jeremy Greaves from the Northern Region of the Brisbane Diocese. Bishop Jeremy lived with his family in Adelaide from 1972 to 1998. Bishop Jeremy entered the priesthood at age 29 and was for many years Parish Priest in Ceduna, 800km west of Adelaide – a mainly Aboriginal Community. Then came 5 years in Kathrine NT where his Parish was larger than NSW. Bishop Jeremy was Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Darwin from 2007 – 2013 and then became Rector and Archdeacon at St. Marks in Buderim and became Bishop in 2017. Bishop Jeremy is the third Bishop in his family.

New A.M.S. branch to be formed in Western Queensland,

My wife and I will be driving about 700km to Charleville on the 6th August and attend the morning service Sunday morning 9th August with Bishop Cameron Venables presiding. The Bishop is stepping in for Fr Rick Gummow who has recently had a heart attack and is on 6 weeks sick leave.

Prior to the heart attack Fr Rick and I had talks about how we could start an A.M.S. branch in his very large Anglican Mission area. The area is an amalgamation of 3 parishes with the

major towns being Mitchell, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Thargomindah, Augathella, Wyandra, Morven and Amby. All these parishes have a low number of males attending church on a regular basis, making it impossible to establish individual A.M.S. branches. However, our Constitution does not stop us from chartering one A.M.S. branch for the whole mission area.

Chairman Jim Smith, myself and our three directors have agreed to appoint the Maranoa Warrego Anglican Mission Area a Provincial Council project for at least the next 2 to 3 years. From Mitchell to Thargomindah is 500 km. The COVID 19 and the introduction of ZOOM has made it possible to have regular ZOOM Parish Branch meetings. The Brisbane Diocese has a ZOOM contract enabling them to run ZOOM meetings for many hours and with a large attendance.

Bishop Jeremy and Bishop Cameron have agreed to conduct these meetings. We expect the first ever “A.M.S. Mission Area Branch” to be official in October when Father Rick Gummow is hopefully fully recovered.

Chairman Jim and I will drive to Mitchell, Charleville and possibly Cunnamulla to induct the first members, Fr Rick will then induct further members as he once again gets around in his Parishes. Hopefully the first ZOOM meeting can take place in November.

To encourage A.M.S. membership and general growth in this large area, A.M.S. will support financially any project that may boost Anglican membership growth. This may be through members helping to start “School Breakfast Clubs” – running B.B.Q’s in public areas and anything members can think of. In Ipswich, the local Lions Club work together with churches

in running both School Breakfast Clubs and Religious Instructions. One new idea, is to have A.M.S. shirts and t-shirts produced for members to wear, when they “work” in public. The shirts could have inscriptions such as A.M.S. Christian Community Service as well as the AMS Logo. We are looking for ideas.

The COVID 19 has really slowed us all down. Here in Brisbane we have several parishes wanting to join A.M.S. but are unable to do so due to meeting restrictions. We can only pray for better times.

Yours in Christ

Andy Brodersen

Lay Vice Chairman

(ed I pointed out to Andy that in 1965 Queensland had around 28 Branches of AMS (CEMS))

From Tasmania- which is actually mainly from/about Longford

The year July 1, 2019 to June 30,2020 is in two halves:pre Covid-19 and then...nothing much.The year began well: AMS had its usual once-a-month Meeting led by our President the Reverend Henry Ivey whose thoughtful Meditations were a highlight of our gathering.

An initiative: we organized a gathering of AMS men at Campbell Town just for the social benefit- and lunch. A few wives of Members joined and it was a worthwhile event.We have maintained contact with other AMS Members across the Diocese so that they might still feel a sense of connection with each other- and nationally.

Trevor attended the Executive meeting in Melbourne- a one-day affair : as it turned out quite an important Meeting- long-serving national secretary Ivan Holt OAM announced he would be standing down in December and Holy Trinity Launceston was confirmed as the venue for the AMS National Conference in September 2020.

As is so often the case finding replacement office holders can be difficult so as an interim measure Trevor (Cowell) offered to fill the role until the 2020 National Conference- more on that later!

Following the usual January shut down the Branch resumed in February aware that a new Rector was coming to the Parish.We welcomed the Reverend James Gannon to our March meeting and introduced him to the AMS about which he had little previous knowledge. Reverend James assured members of his full support and that he looked forward to building AMS in the Parish.

Since then- COVID -19! Nothing has happened as we all know.

The difficulties imposed by the Virus has left all the Parish activities ‘stranded’ and we feel great sympathy for our ‘new’ Rector in this difficult time.

So no local AMS activity: but Nationally we have a new Chairman- the Right Reverend Jeremy Greaves (Brisbane) who replaced Bishop John Stead (Willochra)

Bishop Jeremy immediately introduced us to the world of ZOOM and a 'conference' was held in May at which some Members 'met' our new Chairman and he us. That virtual Meeting decided to abandon the scheduled September 2020 Conference and transfer to September 2021 at Launceston. So Trevor Cowell continues as 'Acting Secretary' until then!

(At a subsequent ZOOM Meeting Bishop Jeremy was Insituted into his Role as Chairman).

There is no Financial Report from AMS Longford for this Annual Meeting as the information required is not to hand – but the Branch does have a credit balance and we will once again be underwriting the production of an AMS Diary for 2021.

We commend parishioners to the AMS Website –www.amsnational.org.au which has much information about the work of AMS across Australia, It is likely virtual meetings via

ZOOM will become more frequent into the future.

We commend the Aims and Objects of AMS to parishioners and we look forward to actual Branch Meetings (probably from September 2020) when we can 'begin again' under the leadership of the Reverend James.

As always- and constantly and earnestly- we welcome all men of the Parish to come to our Monthly meetings which last a bit over an hour or so and give opportunity for social interaction.

Richest Blessings to all

In Witness, Fellowship and Service

Trevor (Cowell)



The view from our upstairs 8am August 5- St Oswald's Day- heaviest snow in Perth, Tas (**41.5667°S, 147.1667°E**) **(and most of northern Tasmania) in 99 years.**

From Neil McMullen

One of the original objects of the AMS was to be a liaison between the clergy and the laity. It must be acknowledged that the present position of AMS is that it is quickly declining in membership. Contrastingly the Mothers Union is maintaining its membership and has a representative situation throughout the church in Australia.

It is also a fact now that there is a growing number of female clergy throughout the church in the world and particularly in Australia.

There has been a very happy blending between male and female clergy in the Australian church. Consequently it is also appropriate that an amalgamation of male and female members in an organisation that is throughout Australia - that is the amalgamation of AMS with the Mothers Union- has many advantages.

It is so important for the laity and the clergy to be in a liaising position. It would be thrilling to see what a conference of loyalty including male and female would promote in terms of facing all the problems that the Church has to face in the future.

I believe that we should debate this matter at our coming ZOOM Conference in September of this year.

Neil McMullen

It is likely our National Chairman will call a ZOOM Conference
For sometime in the next months and some items in this Newsletter could be discussed then,
The National Treasurer, Grahame Foster will present a Financial Statement at that
'Conference'
Bishop Jeremy will advise the Acting Secretary of a date and calls will be made for Agenda
Items.

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

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