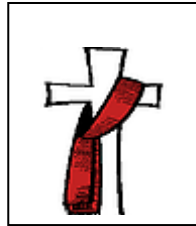


## AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN DIACONAL ASSOCIATION



### PURPOSE

The Australian Anglican Diaconal Association (AADA) unites and supports Australian Anglican Diaconal workers in fellowship, ministry development and engagement in the wider church. The Association convenes a biennial national conference hosted by an Australian diocese. These offer opportunities for professional development and perhaps, most importantly, networking with other deacons from dioceses across Australia.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all 'distinctive' and 'transitional' deacons with membership offered on a two-year basis and renewable at the biennial conference. Fees are set at \$25.00 per year. We currently have 27 members listed.

### OFFICE BEARERS

President:	Venerable Mandy Herriman
Membership Secretary:	Reverend Christine Barren
Website Administrator:	Reverend Claire Morgan- Brooker

### ACTIVITIES

1. We have been unable to gather at our biennial conference since Adelaide 2018 due to COVID restrictions and border closures. The scheduled conference in Perth for 2020 was cancelled for these reasons and the situation since has not permitted the serious consideration of organizing a face-to-face conference. We are considering a 'hybrid conference' for 2022 – diocesan deacons gather face-to-face for a range of network and support opportunities and guest speakers, Q and A sessions and discussions are held via a digital conferencing platform across the dioceses.
2. Several of our members participated in the 2020 Church of England online Deacon's conference which was an inspiring event and helped us to make connections with deacons in England. We shared ministry stories, heard speakers on advocacy for the Diaconate and its role as a full and equal order in the future Anglican Church.
3. Deacons gather regularly on Sunday evenings via Zoom to share Evening Prayer together. This is variously attended by 4-8 deacons every week although there are 30 deacons who subscribe to the opportunity. This has become a wonderful vehicle through which we support one another, pray for one another and our congregations and dioceses but also offer prayers for the world.
4. Once a month on Fridays, many of us gather – again, via Zoom – for a longer, more formal discussion about all things diaconal. These meetings have been instrumental in giving us all a broad perspective and understanding of how the Diaconate lives out its

ministry in the Anglican Church across Australia. We have discussed a range of topics, including, but not limited to, pathways to ordination to the Diaconate, the liturgical role of the deacon including sacramental ministry, the range of ministry roles deacons exercise – in the community, the churches and the academic lives of formation students. The central premise of our discussions is the distinctive call we have to be Deacons. Concerns are raised regularly regarding the desire to encourage all those who share that distinctive call to respond, but there are many barriers that exist which deter prospective deacons from that journey. There is a strong sense among us that the Diaconate is slipping further into a transitional order rather than standing as a full and equal order with its own distinctive roles and ministry directions. Being strong advocates for the Diaconate in our places of ministry is an imperative for each of us.

5. The World Diakonia Federation conference that was due to be held in 2021 was cancelled due to COVID Considerations. Mandy Herriman sits on a subcommittee for the WDF and was assisting in the organization of the cancelled conference. It is hoped to run an online conference in the near future for our worldwide deacons across many religious traditions to attend.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

The website - <http://www.aussiedeacons.org.au/> - is continuing to be updated. Our sincere thanks to The Rev'd Claire Morgan-Brooker for her expertise and ongoing work on this.

I wrote the following in the last report and this still holds true for us as the ongoing work of the AADA.

'We are working towards creating a strong network of support and fellowship for deacons – transitional, distinctive and retired. Before we are able to achieve this, we must promote AADA as a central organization and attract as many deacons as possible to become members so we can increase our support base and services that we can offer.

With such varied ministries exercised by deacons in many dioceses, it is very difficult to define what a national Australian profile of a deacon might look like. While the diversity of ministry in itself is a definitive feature of the Diaconate, that also means that there exists some confusion and vagueness around a 'diaconal' call of those pursuing a vocational pull towards holy orders. By increasing the profile of the AADA, we are hopeful that we can begin the conversation towards building stronger and more dynamic Diaconates in every Diocese in Australia.'

Venerable Mandy Herriman  
President AADA  
Archdeacon of the Household of Deacons  
Anglican Diocese of Perth