

13 November 2009

## Circular to Ministers, Wardens, Parish Councils and Synod Representatives

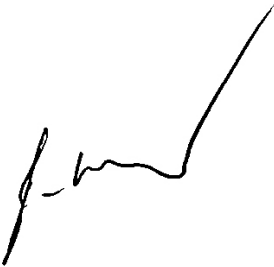
### Re: 2009 Synod Summary

This circular is to convey news to you about the matters decided by the Synod when it met on 19, 20, 21, 26 and 27 October 2009.

A full summary of the proceedings of the Synod can be found on the website of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au)

Please contact me if you have any questions about the matters referred to in this circular.

Kind regards



ROBERT WICKS  
**Diocesan Secretary**

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## **Presidential Address**

The core themes of the Archbishop's address were what the signs of our times tell us (particularly in the context of our investment losses) and the need to respond with persistent faith; Connect09 and how to continue its momentum; and our future and the things we must do.

### **The signs of our times**

The Archbishop spoke of our world trouble by reference to Global Warming, the War on Terror and the Global Financial Crisis and indicated that these teach us that –

...the ordinary human feeling that we are powerful creatures who live in a stable world and a stable universe, is deluded. We are frail beings who live in a creation which is ever changing, however slowly; it is not fixed, permanent unmoving.

They are also "signs that we have no hope of riding the flow of history to gloriously better days."

It was noted that Jesus points us to history and nature to give meaning to the times –

For nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginnings of the birth-pangs.

The Archbishop reminded Synod that "our salvation comes from outside the resources of the human race; that we are designed to trust in God and not ourselves." We must have a persistent and active faith – "waiting for the end to come but energetically busy in the work of God's kingdom". Our times should not "engender panic or paralysis".

### **Our investment losses**

The Archbishop turned to consider our investment losses in this light, asking whether we can read the mind of God in these events. The Archbishop spoke of his personal experience, having felt disbelief that this could happen, let down and yet responsible, doubt about whether gearing the endowment was ethically dubious (although he now considers it not to have been), uncertainty about what we should now do and above all, grief, as the losses impact on many fine ministries and the personal lives of friends and colleagues. But the Archbishop said he had not felt anxious because "the bedrock of our faith is the sovereignty of our great God who is also both wise and good".

In assessing the investment losses the Archbishop noted that having considered what the Lord would want of us in this situation, we had to do three things –

Firstly, to cut costs and not simply by cutting all recipients in equal proportion;

Secondly, to prioritise by identifying and returning to core business (which meant considering what must be funded from central resources);

And thirdly, to invest in our future, not allowing everything to suffer equally and not refusing to take initiatives. We must take the opportunity to regroup, to reorganize and improve what we do.

The Archbishop addressed whether God may be chastising us or teaching us through our investment losses. He noted that "we cannot work out what God's purposes may be" but the "thing that holds us is our assurance that our God is both loving and wise". The Archbishop was not sure that "God is directly 'speaking' to us through these large losses" and "when we ask what God may be teaching us we must be careful to seek an answer in the right place and in the right way". The Archbishop noted in this regard: "It would not be right for example to express our own prejudices and guesses and to confuse them with the word of God". The Archbishop concluded: "When we look at our circumstance in the light of God's word, we have been reminded powerfully that our Diocese cannot and should not depend on its wealth for its Christian life".

In referring to insights from Archdeacon Deryck Howell, the Archbishop noted that: "...as a Diocese we are faced with many options but one basic choice – to obey or disobey God's word". And further: "What God is saying to us does not change; it is publicly known in scripture; we do not have to speculate. But we do have to obey."

## Connect09

The Archbishop noted that if he ever gets a chance to look back on 2009 “it will not be the bad that will come to mind but the good”, by this he was referring to Connect09. The Archbishop described Connect09 as “a decision to obey the written word of God for He summons us to share his word and to pray for unbelievers.” The Archbishop also described Connect09 as being a time of sowing, not necessarily reaping. The Archbishop went on to give a number of anecdotes from Connect09, both personal experiences and those of others. He indicated that he had learned two things. The first being to “pray, to connect, to expect” – to trust God for openings, that he will use his word and that he will prepare people. The second was that notwithstanding the mantra that we live in a secular society his experience this year is that we live in a religious society and that this needs to inform our strategies and assumptions. The Archbishop also noted the importance of research which has highlighted a great need for cross-cultural ministry.

The Archbishop stated his desire for Connect09 to bring about a permanent transformation in our churches towards connection with our community: “the summons to our churches is to re-take the parish, to turn outward, to become energetically reconnected to their location”.

The Archbishop indicated that “one unexpected joy” from Connect09 has been lay participation and enthusiasm. He described Connect09 as being like “a stimulus package flowing through our network of churches and energizing us”.

The Archbishop remarked: “Connect09 makes us think about the state of our churches – our buildings, what we do together when we meet”. He noted that we need to think from both a theological and a missiological point of view when we gather and referred to the new *bettergatherings.com* website to this end.

The Archbishop noted that the Mission Board had turned its mind to how the ethos of Connect09 could be sustained in our churches. One idea, prompted also by the financial crisis, was the development of Mission Areas to encourage better cooperation and idea sharing among parishes. He noted that “local churches are often too weak to do new work alone and that regions are too large for effective action”. The Archbishop thought that there may be approximately twenty Mission Areas, but that the number may grow. Mission Leaders would be appointed to each area and receive training. The Archbishop noted that there was room for flexibility and that not all questions could be answered as “it is not a top-down worked out bureaucratic grid to place over the top of the Diocese”. Rather: “It is an opportunity to recognize and bring out the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of local Christians.

## The Future

The Archbishop questioned where we will be in fifty years time. After considering population and cultural changes in Australia as well as the growth of Pentacostalism and its love-affair with modern-culture, the Archbishop commented –

I do not doubt, therefore, that our commitment to conservative theology and to a high view of scripture is entirely correct. Only this will carry Christianity forward in a culture such as Australia in the next fifty years. However, I do see signs in our midst of a tension: I think that some of us will more readily come to terms with culture for missionary reasons, but not being as careful as we should be about the purity of doctrine, we will lose the structure of the faith and become effectively Unitarian. The theological weakness will begin, I think, with an impoverished doctrine of sin. From this will come a semi-pelagian anthropology, an exemplarist soteriology and a humanistic Christology. It will probably develop two forms - a wet pietistic one which will still look for spiritual experience, and a dry intellectualist one which will embrace cultural respectability.

Of course the opposite danger is to flee from the world and embrace not merely theological but also cultural conservatism. The heirs of such brothers and sisters will survive and survive to bear witness to the gospel; I would rather be with them than with the others. But we will be as invisible in the general culture as the smallest sect is today.

There is a better path. We have signalled our allegiance to it already via the Diocesan Mission and especially Connect 09. It is who we are and who we want to be. It involves a commitment both to biblical theology and purity of doctrine, and also to our neighbours. We want to be citizens of our nation with a transcendent loyalty to the kingdom of God.

The Archbishop went on to suggest four things that we must do –

Firstly, “we must continue to cherish and support Moore Theological College” because “its teaching is the guardian of our theology and hence our life as a network of churches”.

Secondly, “we must take urgent action in the realm of Anglican education”. The Archbishop noted that both state and private schooling constitute “a key interface between our Diocese and the surrounding world”. We must better research and support Sydney Anglican education beyond the present great work being done by the Anglican Education Commission.

Thirdly, “we must deepen the partnership between Anglicare and the parishes”. It is important for Mission Area leaders to think about how Anglicare (and our other organisations) can partner with them in ministry.

Fourthly, “we must develop a dedicated evangelistic fellowship, a local missionary society”. The Archbishop indicated that in asking Bishop Al Stewart to take on the position of Director of Evangelism Ministries from next year it is his (and Bishop Stewart’s) desire that the role have a particular concern for “church planting: inspiring, recruiting, training, placing and supporting evangelistic church planters in the Diocese”.

The Archbishop concluded his address as follows –

For me, it has been a year of great but mixed emotions, of hard, hard work, of frustration and sadness at the loss of ministries, of admiration at the way so many people have simply got on with being servants of Jesus even when hard decisions have affected them deeply. It has also been a year in which I have seen God at work through his servants in sharing the gospel and so a year of rejoicing. I am so proud to be associated with a Diocese which has poured all this energy and time and money into evangelism and into transforming churches. I am so thankful to God for his immeasurable blessings.

Paul writes to the Philippians as one who knows the great apocalyptic truth: ‘the Lord is at hand.’ He knows that whatever happens there is only one thing which matters, that the Lord will appear and transform all things. He speaks of his joy, his contentment, of his pleasure in the partnership he has experienced with the church. And then in God’s name he makes this promise: ‘And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.’ That is our testimony in good times and in bad: our God will provide. With Paul we also say: ‘I can do all things through him who strengthens me’. And so he adds, in words which we can make our own, ‘To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.’

The full Presidential Address can be obtained from the Anglican Media website – <http://www.sydneyan Anglicans.net>. It is available in audio and video formats. The text of the Address is available on the SDS website – [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

## **Mission Report**

On the evening of the first day the Rev Andrew Nixon reported on what has been achieved so far through the Connect09 campaign. Mr Nixon gave an overview of the distribution of Connect09 resources through our churches, schools and organisations and also through public school scripture. He noted, for example, that over 177,000 copies of *The Good News Parcel Company* DVD had been delivered to children and their families. Mr Nixon also gave a number of encouraging anecdotes from the perspective of those giving and receiving the resources.

Members of the parish of Waitara were also interviewed about their experience implementing Connect09, which included door knocking their entire suburb. Mr Nixon reported on the success of the *Inspiring God* seminars in the CBD which has resulted in around 170 people (or 15-20% of attendees) indicating a desire to attend a 6 week *Life of Jesus* course. Mr Nixon emphasised that Connect09 does not “time out” at the end of 2009.

## The Missionary Hour

The "Missionary Hour" on the evening of the fourth day of the session featured Bishop Ivan Lee interviewing –

- Mr David and Mrs Leonie Painter, CMS Cambodia,
- The Rev David Mansfield, Director of the Archbishop's Appeal Unit,
- Archbishop Ian Earnest, Primate of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and
- The Rev Alan Lukabyo, Rector of the Parish of Dundas/Telopea.

The Painters explained their work training Christian leaders in Cambodia using Moore College's External Studies program and other resources that Mr Painter and others are translating into Khmer. The Rev David Mansfield gave an overview of the various Archbishop's appeal funds which are run through Anglicare and the important work that they are financing both in Australia and overseas. Archbishop Earnest explained how they were using Moore College's External Studies program to train Christian leaders in Mauritius and Madagascar. The course is in the process of being translated into French. The Rev Alan Lukabyo spoke of his experience training leaders in Mauritius using the Moore College material.

Prayer followed each interview.

## Elections

The following table indicates the number of elections of persons to boards and committees which were conducted and comparisons with past years.

Year	Uncontested		Contested		Total	
	Elections	Positions	Elections	Positions	Elections	Positions
<i>45<sup>th</sup> Synod</i>						
1999	69	263	12	87	81	350
2000	32	83	3	7	35	90
2001	35	92	6	11	41	103
<i>46<sup>th</sup> Synod</i>						
2002	76	265	18	120	94	385
2003	27	99	0	0	27	99
2004	25	75	1	3	26	78
<i>47<sup>th</sup> Synod</i>						
2005	44	322	7	52	51	374
2006	21	90	1	1	22	91
2007	16	57	1	3	17	60
<i>48<sup>th</sup> Synod</i>						
2008	76	315	7	50	83	365
2009	34	70	7	16	41	86

## Resolutions passed

Appendix A sets out all the resolutions passed by the Synod. The following resolutions are of particular interest to ministers, wardens and parish councils. Please refer to them in Appendix A.

- 2/09 Environmental initiatives in the Diocese
- 3/09 Administrative burden on parishes
- 5/09 Clergy retirement age
- 13/09 Ordination candidates
- 14/09 Pastoral Care of Seniors Conference
- 15/09 Special Religious Education (Scripture)
- 17/09 Diocesan Endowment investment losses

21/09	Moore College Campus Development
25/09	Partnerships in evangelism
26/09	Endorsement of Statement made on behalf of past Care Providers
34/09	People affected by disability
36/09	Grievance policy and procedure
44/09	Human rights framework for Australia
45/09	Policy on consumption of alcohol in the parish context

## **Ordinances passed**

The Synod passed 13 ordinances. Here are brief notes on those ordinances.

### **Archbishop of Sydney Election Amendment Ordinance 2009**

The Archbishop of Sydney Election Amendment Ordinance 2009 made changes to the process for electing a person to the office of Archbishop of Sydney. The changes include –

- providing that if the President of an election Synod is also a candidate, the person “next in line” is to give the Presidential Address,
- enabling the Director of Professional Standards to access any information of the National Register about candidates prior to the election Synod with such information to be disclosed to the Synod unless the candidate withdraws from the election,

As a related matter, the Ordinance also provided that any extension to an Archbishop’s retirement age (up to 70 years of age) may only be made once the Archbishop has turned 60.

### **Discipline Amendment Ordinance 2009**

The Discipline Amendment Ordinance 2009 made changes to the way in which the Professional Standards Committee (the “PSC”) considers complaints of misconduct and the circumstances in which such complaints will be referred to the Disciplinary or Diocesan Tribunal. The changes include –

- requiring the PSC to determine that “there is a reasonable likelihood that a complaint will be sustained before the Disciplinary or Diocesan Tribunal” before referring a complaint to the Tribunal,
- enabling the PSC to recommend to a respondent that he or she resign from their office or employment or request voluntary deposition or relinquishment from holy orders (with appropriate admissions and other conditions) as an alternative to, for example, referring the matter to the Tribunal,
- removing the ability of a respondent, who is an unpaid volunteer, to compel a Tribunal hearing by opposing or not responding to an initial recommendation of the PSC and giving the Archbishop a discretion in such circumstances to refer the matter back to the PSC to make final recommendations to the relevant church authority.

### **General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009**

The General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 indicated our Synod’s agreement to the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia being amended to ensure that all bishops who are subject to the jurisdiction of the Special Tribunal can be suspended.

### **General Synod Legislation Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2009**

The General Synod Legislation Repeal and Exclusion Ordinance 2009 excludes from operation in this Diocese the following canons of the General Synod which are considered unnecessary –

- See Finance and Information Canon 1966
- Alternative Tables of Lessons Canon 1985
- Archdeacons Canon 1995
- Chancellors Canon 2001

### **General Synod – Offences Canon Amendment Canon 2007 Adopting Ordinance 2009**

The Offences Canon Amendment Canon 2007 extends offences to all bishops who are subject to the jurisdiction of the Special Tribunal.

### **General Synod – Special Tribunal Canon 2007 Declarations Ordinance 2009**

The Special Tribunal Canon 2007 makes provision for the handling of complaints against bishops and for the operation of the Special Tribunal. The Canon establishes the Episcopal Standards Commission (ESC) which has certain functions concerning the receipt, investigation and prosecution of complaints.

By the General Synod - Special Tribunal Canon 2007 Declarations Ordinance 2009 the Synod declared its opinion that the Canon affects the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney. This declaration means that the Canon does not have force and effect in our Diocese unless our Synod adopts it by Ordinance or the General Synod Standing Committee refers the matter to the Appellate Tribunal of the Anglican Church of Australia and it expresses a contrary opinion.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Synod also declared, under provisions in the Canon that allow it to do so, that should the Canon ever have force and effect in our Diocese that the provisions enabling the ESC to bring a charge against our Archbishop in the Special Tribunal shall have no force and effect.

### **General Synod - The Solemnization of Matrimony Canon Amendment Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009**

The General Synod – Solemnization of Matrimony Canon Amendment Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009 indicated our Synod's agreement with the removal of the rule requiring at least one party to a marriage solemnized according to Anglican rites to be a baptised person.

The Solemnization of Matrimony Canon Amendment Canon 2007 was passed by the General Synod as a provisional canon and must be assented to by the Synod of each diocese before it will come into effect. At least three dioceses, including one metropolitan see, have already dissented from the provisional canon and it will therefore return to the General Synod for further consideration regardless of our Synod having given its assent.

### **Moore Theological College Ordinance 1984 Amendment Ordinance 2009**

The Moore Theological College Ordinance 1984 Amendment Ordinance 2009 provides for a new constitution for Moore Theological College. In particular it –

- expands the objects of the Moore College Council,
- caters for the various requirements of the National Governance Protocols for Higher Education Providers,
- reduces the size of the College's Governing Board from 23 to 17 members,
- makes changes reflecting the winding up of the estate of the late Thomas Moore with respect to the College.

### **Parish Review Repeal Ordinance 2009**

The Parish Review Repeal Ordinance 2009 discontinues the process for undertaking parish development reviews by repealing the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001 and the Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2001.

### **Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2009**

The Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2009 determines the ministry and property costs for 2010 which are to be paid for or on behalf of parochial units in the Diocese and the charge payable by each parochial unit to recover these costs. It also specifies the formula used to calculate the charges payable by each parochial unit to recover those ministry and property costs in 2011 and 2012.

### **Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2009**

The Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2009 extends the date that St John's Parramatta and St Michael's Wollongong will cease to be Provisional Cathedrals from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2012.

### **Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009**

The Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 authorises Synod funding for 2010 and provides estimates for Synod funding in 2011 and 2012.

### **Synod Membership (Nominated Indigenous Representatives) Ordinance 2009**

The Synod Membership (Nominated Indigenous Representatives) Ordinance 2009 gives the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee the flexibility to elect 2 persons as Nominated Indigenous Representatives on the Synod (whether lay or ordained) rather than requiring 1 ordained and 1 lay person to be elected as Indigenous representatives.



## **Appendix A: Resolutions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 48<sup>th</sup> Synod**

### **1/09 General Synod 2007 Legislation**

Synod receives the report on General Synod 2007 Legislation and adopts the recommendations made in that report.

(Mr Neil Cameron 19/10/09)

### **2/09 Environmental initiatives in the Diocese**

Synod requests that a report be provided to its next session about the environmental initiatives being undertaken in the Diocese.

(Dr Karin Sowada 19/10/09)

### **3/09 Administrative burden on parishes**

Synod receives the report on the Administrative Burden on Parishes and –

- (a) encourages parishes, in the context of personal relationships within the diocesan network, to seek opportunities to provide administrative support to one another,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to consider facilitating such partnerships of support by compiling and disseminating information about parishes which may be willing to provide support and parishes which are seeking support, and
- (c) requests that all submissions to government include, where appropriate, recommendations to reduce the administrative burden on parishes and diocesan organisations.

(Mr Geoff Kyngdon 19/10/09)

### **4/09 Clarification and revision of rules relating to Alterations, Ornaments and Monuments**

Synod requests the Standing Committee to clarify and bring revisions to section 5.5 paragraph (a) of the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 relating to Alterations, Ornaments and Monuments to the next session of Synod. Specifically, Synod requests that those things requiring the Archbishop's approval in order to be added or taken away be defined more precisely and narrowly, enabling parishes to clear away clutter, free up storage space, and adapt their buildings for ministry efficiently, and without confusion or unnecessary procedural delays.

(The Rev David Mears 19/10/09)

### **5/09 Clergy retirement age**

Synod requests the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to review current practice with regard to clergy retirement age in this Diocese, the membership of this committee to comprise both laypersons and clergy, with the lay membership being at least one person more than the clergy membership. Synod further suggests that the matters investigated by this committee should include but not be limited to the following –

- (a) the introduction of a retirement age for clergy in this Diocese and the reasons for it, including any changes that have been made to diocesan practice since that introduction,
- (b) whether there are still good reasons to have a fixed retirement age for clergy and what those reasons are,
- (c) if a fixed retirement age is to be retained, what that age should be, when it should be reviewed, and what procedures should be in place to extend it in individual cases,
- (d) if a fixed retirement age is no longer deemed desirable, what mechanisms would need to be put in place to ensure that both clergy and the parishes or organisations in which they serve are properly provided for,
- (e) the recommendations of the committee as to clergy retirement age or otherwise, and
- (f) what changes, if any, would need to be made to the Retirements Ordinance 1993 and any other relevant ordinances if the recommendations of the committee were to be adopted by the Synod.

(The Rev Bob Cameron 19/10/09)

## **6/09 Anglicare Counselling and Relationship Services**

Synod congratulates Anglicare Counselling and Relationship Services for achieving the outstanding result of 100% compliance when audited earlier in 2009 by the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Synod notes that these auditors commended the strong commitment to Anglicare's mission, vision and values displayed all through the service. Synod also notes that Anglicare was the first such organisation in Australia to achieve such a result. Synod gives thanks to God for Anglicare's counselling and relationship services and commends them to our Anglican churches and wider community.

(Canon Sandy Grant 19/10/09)

## **7/09 Retirement of the Rev Ian Mears**

Synod gives thanks to God for the committed and faithful service of the Reverend Ian Mears as the Chairman of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation from March 1991 until his planned retirement on 17 November 2009, a period of over 18 years. At various times he has also served as the School Council Chairman of St Luke's Grammar School, Dee Why and Claremont College, Randwick as well as a member of most of the sub-committees of the Board of the Corporation.

During Ian's tenure the Corporation adopted its current mission: to establish and operate efficiently, strategically placed Anglican Schools offering quality education, which are financially accessible to local communities and communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students, staff, parents and the wider community. Synod acknowledges that while he has been the Corporation Chairman the number of students enrolled in its schools and directly exposed to the Gospel has more than quadrupled from some 2,500 in 1991 to over 10,750 in 2009 and that the schools have grown in number from a low of five to the current 16.

Synod prays that God's continued blessings might rest on Ian, and his wife, Margaret, as they continue to serve the Lord through ministry work on the Central Coast.

(Mr David Minty 19/10/09)

## **8/09 Retirement of Mr John Lambert AM**

Synod gives thanks to God for the work of Mr John Lambert AM, the Director of Schools Development of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation, as he plans to retire from this position on 31 December 2009. Synod acknowledges John's 15 years of unique service to the mission of the Corporation, particularly through his work in the establishment of 11 new Anglican schools within the Diocese. During this time he has also been involved in an advisory capacity in the establishment of a number of new Anglican schools in other Dioceses throughout NSW as well as, for the last ten years, serving as the School Council Chairman of Arndell Anglican College at Oakville.

Synod thanks John for his considerable efforts on behalf of the Corporation, and Anglican schooling in general, which have led to this significant growth and development, including over 8,000 additional students in the Corporation's schools.

Synod also thanks John's wife, Jan, for her support for John throughout this time and asks for our Lord's continuing blessing on their lives and continued ministry works.

(Dr Bryan Cowling 19/10/09)

## **9/09 Archbishop Sir Marcus Loane KBE**

Synod gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Archbishop Sir Marcus Loane KBE who died on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the age of 97.

Sir Marcus as a son of this Diocese served its evangelical cause in his roles as Vice Principal and the Principal of Moore Theological College (1939-1959), Archbishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of NSW (1966-1982) and Primate of Australia (1978-1981).

We acknowledge his great zeal for both personal and public evangelism, having been instrumental in Billy Graham's three visits to Australia.

We remember how he presided over this Synod and the Standing Committee with a firm, but friendly hand and his great support and friendship to many.

Sir Marcus worked alongside and encouraged missionaries in the field as he travelled widely. His support of Christian organisations both Anglican and interdenominational was legendary.

This Synod acknowledges the debt of gratitude it owes him for giving great and sustained leadership to this church.

In passing this motion Synod sends its condolences, love and support to Lady Patricia Loane and family.

(Mr Warwick Olson 20/10/09)

### **10/09 Archdeacon Ken Allen**

Synod gives thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Ken Allen as Archdeacon in the Western Sydney Region since 2000 and soon to retire on 21 November 2009.

People know Ken first and foremost, before any official titles or roles, as a devoted follower of Jesus Christ whose life exemplifies a wholehearted response to God's grace of love and obedience. Ken is a truly parish man, and not one parish in the vast Western Region has not benefited from his tireless efforts to support them in all matters of property, ministry and outreach.

Ken graduated from Moore College in 1970 and served in the Diocese of Armidale in the parishes of West Tamworth, Baradine, Walgett, Gunnedah and Tamworth South, and also served as the Archdeacon of Peel. With the encouragement of Bishop Paul Barnett, he moved to Sydney Diocese and the parish of Putney, before becoming Archdeacon assisting the late Bishop Brian King.

His parish experience of leading both large, small, rural and city churches has been of tremendous value to the regional bishop, the parishes of the region, but also to the diocese as a whole, working closely with ordination candidates, Anglicare and the many staff members of the SDS. Synod also thanks his wife Danielle for her support of Ken and her care of clergy wives in Western Sydney, and prays that God will richly bless them in their future ministry together.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 20/10/09)

### **11/09 Inspiring People**

Synod commends Andrew Nixon and the Connect09 Team of volunteers, for organising the Inspiring People series of public outreach events. Synod gives thanks for the work of God in the lives of notable Australian Christians who shared their stories of faith in Christ at these events, and for those who heard them. Synod prays for those who are exploring the life of Jesus further as a result. Synod also acknowledges the partnership with Connect09 of the City Bible Forum, John Dickson and the Centre for Public Christianity, Karl Faase, and the Bible Society in organising and promoting the Inspiring People events. Synod requests consideration be given to retaining the concept and the Inspiring People 'brand label' for use in similar campaigns in future years, taking into account any improvements suggested by rectors and other interested Christians.

(Canon Sandy Grant 20/10/09)

### **12/09 Anglican Retirement Villages**

In recognising the fiftieth anniversary of Anglican Retirement Villages, Synod thanks Almighty God for the vision of the late Archbishop Howard Mowll and his wife Dorothy to establish residential accommodation for retired missionaries and clergy; for the opening of Mowll Memorial Village on 24 October 1959; for 50 years that Anglican Retirement Villages has been 'Creating Communities of Christian Care', and prays for God's blessing upon 5,500 Residents and Community Clients all over Sydney Diocese and upon the Board of Directors and 2000 staff who provide care and Christian witness.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 20/10/09)

### **13/09 Ordination candidates**

Synod gives thanks and praise to God for the record number of Sydney Ordination Candidates exiting Moore College at the end of the year (48), as well as the record number of ministry positions so far offered for next year, although some of these positions will be taken by current assistant ministers seeking their second appointment. Quite a number of candidates and existing assistant ministers, approximately 20, are currently without ministry positions organised for 2010, and Synod therefore encourages Rectors and Parish Councils to consider creating new positions, and in particular positions for a number of very fine women who are to be deaconed, so that all our candidates are employed into the Diocesan Mission.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 20/10/09)

### **14/09 Pastoral Care of Seniors Conference**

Synod notes that the School of Christian Studies is sponsoring a Pastoral Care of Seniors Conference at Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> which focuses on training lay people for effective ministry to and by seniors as they connect with our wider community.

(Dr Grant Maple 20/10/09)

### **15/09 Special Religious Education (Scripture)**

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks for the work of Special Religious Education (Scripture) teachers in NSW schools since 1880,
- (b) recognises the impact that this important work has had in reaching young people for Christ, and
- (c) encourages all our parishes to continue to pray for and resource Scripture in each of the primary and secondary schools within their parish, and where possible, beyond.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue 20/10/09)

### **16/09 Questions of principle relevant to electing the Archbishop**

Synod requests the Standing Committee to review the questions of principle relevant to electing a person to the office of Archbishop of Sydney including –

- (a) whether a notice to summon an election Synod to fill a vacancy which the Standing Committee has resolved to be filled under clause 2(2) of the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982 should be given shortly after the Standing Committee's resolution and before the occurrence of the vacancy, and
  - (b) whether the election Synod itself may be held before the occurrence of such a vacancy, and
  - (c) whether a person should be elected to the office of Archbishop of Sydney for a fixed term,
- and requests the Standing Committee to report to next year's Synod about this matter.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 20/10/09)

### **17/09 Diocesan Endowment investment losses**

In light of the investment strategies of the Glebe Administration Board (GAB) reported to Standing Committee, the global financial crisis and recent large capital losses experienced by the Diocesan Endowment, Synod continues in thankfulness to and dependence on our Almighty God and Loving Heavenly Father, who is no man's debtor and knows our needs better than we know ourselves.

Synod also –

- (i) notes that the strategy of the Glebe Administration Board (GAB) of borrowing to invest (gearing) was exercised completely within the authorities given to it and was clearly reported on a monthly basis to Standing Committee and annually to Synod,
- (ii) notes that both the CEO and members of the GAB, and the Standing Committee have –
  - (a) accepted their respective responsibilities for management and oversight of the Diocesan Endowment (DE) investment strategies, and
  - (b) expressed their regret at the losses stemming from the implementation of this strategy of

- gearing, and
- (c) admitted in particular that mistakes were made in risk management procedures related to this gearing, and
- (iii) joins with the GAB and Standing Committee in expressing this regret.

Synod also –

- (iv) notes that while the GAB has repaid all bank debt, an undrawn line of credit of \$50 million has been maintained for prudential purposes and, if this facility is drawn on, the GAB has undertaken to provide a full explanation to the next Standing Committee meeting,
- (v) notes that borrowing in the form of deposit raising by church funds similar to the DE is a widely accepted practice among other dioceses and denominations, and
- (vi) requests Standing Committee to report to the next Synod (or before – to Synod representatives, in writing) the corrective actions taken by the Glebe Administration Board to address each and every concern raised in the Cameron Ralph report, especially with respect to governance, risk management and Board performance.

Finally, Synod seeks to honour God in faithful stewardship of our resources, trusting in the promises of his word and seeking to be content both in times of need as well as plenty, knowing that we can do all things through God who gives us strength.

(Mr Peter Kell 20/10/09)

### **18/09 Mrs Lesley Ramsay**

Synod gives thanks for the ministry of Mrs Lesley Ramsay, the Senior Women's Evangelist for Evangelism Ministries, as she plans to retire from Synod at the end of this year. Synod acknowledges Lesley's unique ministry and service to the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney from 1997 to 2009 which has also included being a Synod representative at 4 General Synods of the Anglican Church of Australia and membership of the Women's Commission of the General Synod.

While much could be said of Lesley's leadership and transforming work through Equal but Different or of her years of ministry alongside her husband Jim in parish ministry at Bexley North, Liverpool, and Engadine, or of her new venture as a writer of Christian books, her membership of various committees and more recently her leadership of the KWC, however I wish to concentrate primarily on Lesley's role as an evangelist.

As the Senior Women's Evangelist of Evangelism Ministries since 2000, Lesley has trained upward of 50 MTC students as evangelists and preachers. She has preached the gospel at innumerable Women's Evangelistic events and conferences throughout Australia. She has on several occasions visited South Africa to assist in training women in the Church of England in S.A. Most importantly however are the many, many women in the kingdom of God today because of Lesley's faithful, diligent proclamation of the gospel. In all of this Lesley's only motive has been to serve the one who served her by his death on a cross.

Though we will most certainly miss Lesley's wisdom and input in this formal setting, the greatest loss to the diocese will be that at Lesley's retirement there will no longer be finances available for a dedicated women's evangelist in Sydney. Lesley agrees that the loss of this position will have a huge effect on reaching women for Christ and in equipping others to do so.

Lesley we wish you well in the new opportunities we are sure God will open before you as one of his faithful evangelists. And we are thankful to God for your tireless, enthusiastic, loving service.

(Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett 21/10/09)

### **19/09 Canon Jim Ramsay**

Synod gives thanks to God of the faithful ministry of Canon Jim Ramsay to this Diocese and Synod as the Rector of Bexley North, Liverpool and Engadine, where he had the opportunity and some might say the privilege of training student ministers one who went onto become the Bishop of Wollongong assistant ministers one who went on to become the vice principal of Moore College. More recently Jim led the Evangelism Ministry team as Director of the Department of Evangelism during his period of the Diocesan Mission and Connect09.

For those who know Jim and have worked with Jim we know him to be a gospel man keen to see people come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and be established in the faith. As one of the formerly fresh faced assistant ministers that worked with Jim I remember him telling me not to grow the Kingdom of St Luke's' Liverpool, rather seek grow the kingdom of God, such was Jim's vision for gospel ministry. Jim is such a gospel man that he used some of his long service leave do some gospel ministry in South Africa.

Needless to say behind every capable clergyman stands a supportive wife – for Jim that is Lesley, not only a supportive wife but a gifted Bible teacher and evangelist in her own right and who's gifts and abilities were acknowledged by the organisation Equal but Different and Evangelism Ministries long before Jim took the reigns.

As such Synod gives thanks for both Jim and Lesley and hope that as they face this next phase of life it will be one of continued service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

(The Rev Stuart Pearson 21/10/09)

### **20/09 Archdeacon Deryck Howell**

Synod gives thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for his servant Deryck Howell. Synod gives thanks for his 28 years of service in the South Sydney region, 21 as an assistant minister at St Matthias Centennial Park and 7 years as archdeacon of the South Sydney Region.

We acknowledge with gratitude his wisdom, energy and patience – gifts from God well used by Deryck for the advancement of his kingdom. We praise God for his humility and faithfulness as pastor, preacher, and mentor; his love and support of rectors and Bishop Robert Forsyth and we praise God that many are privileged to call him a friend.

We acknowledge with gratefulness his tireless work on a multitude of committees, including Provincial Synod, Standing Committee, the South Sydney Regional Council, the Sydney Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee, and his still to continue involvement in EFAC and the State branch of CMS.

Synod in delighted for Deryck and Glenda at the new ministry opportunity they will have when Deryck begins as rector of Rosemeadow in December. We pray all God's richest blessing in this new phase of their ministry.

(The Rev Antony Barraclough 21/10/09)

### **21/09 Moore College Campus Development**

Synod welcomes the news that Moore College has lodged a Concept Plan for a major redevelopment of its campus with the NSW Department of Planning.

Synod notes that –

- (a) the Concept Plan has been developed after a detailed review of the expected property needs of the College and will give considerable flexibility for changing circumstances;
- (b) an approved Concept Plan will give certainty of long term planning approval and enable implementation of the property development proposals over a period of decades if necessary;
- (c) a Project Application has also been lodged for the construction of a major building to house a Resource and Research Centre incorporating a new library and other modern facilities;
- (d) the Concept Plan and the Project Application will be considered under the processes set out in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* and it is expected that these processes will be completed in the first half of 2010;
- (e) subject to available funding, the College will seek to start construction of the new building for the library as soon as practicable after planning approval;
- (f) a display about the Concept Plan and Project Application, including a model of the site, is available for inspection in the foyer of Synod for the first three days of this session.

Synod encourages parishes and individuals to provide whatever financial support they can for this important project.

(Mr Robert Tong 21/10/09)

## **22/09 Amendments to Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917**

Given the increasing responsibilities in managing church trust property Synod requests Standing Committee to confer with the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney about seeking amendments to the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 to enable the Trust to discharge its responsibilities more efficiently and expeditiously.

(Mr Robert Tong 21/10/09)

## **23/09 Governance review of diocesan organisations**

Synod requests that Standing Committee undertake a review of the constitutional documents and relevant ordinances governing the operation at Diocesan organisations considering –

- (1) the scope of the restrictions on the power of diocesan organisations to incur financial indebtedness and ensuring that those restrictions cover all forms of financial indebtedness (not just restricting the ability to borrow money) and impose appropriate limits on the total amount of financial indebtedness able to be incurred at any time; and
- (2) the scope of each diocesan organisation's investment powers, having regard to the objective of capital preservation, particularly considering –
  - (a) whether restrictions should be imposed on the ability of an organisation to make investments where there is a material risk of loss of capital invested, including investments in ASX listed securities, managed investment schemes and structured products, and
  - (b) whether more detailed investment guidelines should be introduced, including regularly published lists of approved investments.

Having undertaken the review, Synod requests Standing Committee to ensure that amendments are drawn up and brought forward as necessary to reflect the findings of such review.

(The Rev Nigel Fortescue 21/10/09)

## **24/09 Support of Regional Councils**

Synod requests that Standing Committee consider how regional councils can be supported to continue their important role of funding ministry strategies in their regions including a change in the large receipts policy for sale and leasing ordinances so that the portion usually added to the capital of the Diocesan Endowment may instead be allocated to a regional council or other Diocesan beneficiary to further the Diocesan Mission and to bring a report on the operation of this matter to Synod next year.

(Bishop Glenn Davies 21/10/09)

## **25/09 Partnerships in evangelism**

Synod welcomes the appointment of Bishop Al Stewart as the Director of Evangelism Ministries from February 2010 and gives thanks for his service as Bishop of Wollongong. Given the fact that, unlike in the past, grants to the Regional Councils used to seed-fund ministries in so-called 'desert' areas and to 'lost tribes' are unlikely to be available, Synod –

- (1) encourages Bishop Stewart to focus particularly on the raising up of church planters for those areas where Anglican ministry is currently struggling and has a limited impact on the community,
- (2) encourages Bishop Stewart to look to organisations such as CMS and AFES for models for raising the funding for this task,
- (3) calls upon churches throughout the Diocese to partner in mission together with these church plants to support them prayerfully, financially and in the work of evangelism to reach these areas for Christ.

(The Rev Phillip Colgan 26/10/09)

## **26/09 Endorsement of Statement made on behalf of past Care Providers**

Synod –

1. notes that –
  - (a) on 19 September 2009 a Healing Service organised by the State Government in conjunction

with Care providers and Care Leavers was held for those who grew up in institutional care - the service coincided with the unveiling of a memorial in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney to acknowledge the difficulties that many care leavers experienced in their childhood and

- (b) a statement on behalf of non-government past providers of institutional care, was read by the Bishop Robert Forsyth representing the following organisations –

Anglicare  
Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT  
Barnardos Australia  
The Benevolent Society  
CatholicCare  
MacKillop Family Services (Christian Brothers, Sisters of St Joseph, Sisters of Mercy)  
The Salvation Army  
The Infants Home Child & Family Services  
Uniting Church in Australia – NSW Synod, representing Wesley Mission and Uniting Care NSW & ACT  
United Protestant Association of NSW

2. acknowledges with appreciation the role of Stephen Quinn a member of the parish of Lower Blue Mountains in instigating the idea for this service and memorial and the support of Peter Kell and Anglicare staff and Jenni Woodhouse of the Diocesan PSU and Leonie Sheedy of CLAN in gaining the participation of the Government and other care providers to enable this important event to happen.
3. adds its endorsement to the statement made publicly on behalf of past care providers by Bishop Forsyth which read –

*On behalf of the non-government service providers represented here today, I acknowledge that many children placed in our care until 1990 did not receive the consistent and loving care that they needed and deserved.*

*It is now recognised that caring for children and young people who cannot live with their family must include regular and meaningful family contact, placement with siblings, consistent care givers and support for them to understand their experience of being in care. We acknowledge that for many children and young people, this was not the case.*

*For the children and young people who did not receive the consistent love and care that they needed and deserved, we are sorry.*

*For the children and young people who were neglected, mistreated and abused, we are sorry.*

*For the families who entrusted their children to us and whose expectations were not met, we are sorry.*

*To the Forgotten Australians, we stand committed to responding promptly, compassionately and respectfully to those who wish to approach us about their care experiences.*

*I, on behalf of the non-government service providers represented here am privileged to be part of this Healing Service and commemoration for the Forgotten Australians.*

(The Rev Chris Albany 26/10/09)

### **27/09 Inter-Church Commission of Religious Education in Schools**

That the AEC (Anglican Education Commission) be asked, respectfully, to reconsider its decision to remove the Diocese of Sydney from ICCOREIS (the Inter-Church Commission of Religious Education in Schools).

(The Rev Martin Robinson 26/10/09)

### **28/09 Archbishop's liturgical group**

Synod gives thanks for the work of the Archbishop's liturgical group to date, as found on the website [www.bettergatherings.com](http://www.bettergatherings.com), and notes and encourages the group's desire to receive constructive feedback and suggestions from all in the Diocese.

(Mr Phillip Griffin 26/10/09)

### **29/09 Remuneration for Glebe Administration Board members**

Synod requests the Standing Committee to consider whether members of the Glebe Administration Board should be paid for their services.

(The Rev Ray Robinson 26/10/09)

### **30/09 Mr Ken Barber and Mr Geoff Kells**

Synod gives thanks for the leadership exercised by Mr Geoff Kells and Mr Ken Barber for Anglican Retirement Villages, Sydney Diocese.

Geoff Kells served on the Board of ARV from 1998 to 2008, including 8 years as Chairman. Geoff's vision for the future needs of older Australians and his focus on ARV's Christian mission were hallmarks of his leadership.

Ken Barber was employed by ARV from 1996 to 2009, including 9 years as Chief Executive Officer. Ken's focus, discipline and compassion saw ARV grow to serve substantially more older Australians and to do so in a manner that emphasised ARV's Christian mission of communicating Christ and of pastoral and practical care.

Both ARV's alignment with the Diocesan Mission and its financial position substantially improved as a result of their leadership, and Synod wishes them God's blessing in the ministries he has prepared for them.

(Bishop Ivan Lee 26/10/09)

### **31/09 Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (UK and Ireland)**

Synod –

- (a) notes the formation and launch of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (UK and Ireland) in London on Monday 6 July 2009,
- (b) commends its executive and membership for their commitment to contend for the faith once delivered to all the saints, and their goal in common with the FCA around the world to "reform, heal and revitalize the Anglican Communion and expand its mission to the world", and
- (c) requests the Diocesan Secretary to write to the Rev Paul Perkin, Chairman of FCA (UK and Ireland) communicating the same.

(The Rev Bob Cameron 26/10/09)

### **32/09 Qualifications and experience of candidates and members**

Synod requests that Standing Committee consider practical means by which Synod members might be more fully informed of information pertaining to qualification, significant experience, occupation, Board memberships, potential conflicts of interest and any other details that might be considered necessary and/or helpful to assist Synod members in voting knowledgeably in Synod elections and in making personal assessment of an individual's background on a subject when they rise to speak.

(Mr Andrew McLachlan 26/10/09)

### **33/09 Essential Jesus at Easter Show**

That the Synod asks the Connect09 Management Committee to consider sponsoring a display 'The Essential Jesus' at the Sydney Royal Agricultural Show next Easter. This would give us the opportunity of spreading the Word of God to about 1 million people that pass through the gates over the 14 days of exhibition.

(Mr Brian Flower 26/10/09)

### **34/09 People affected by disability**

Synod, mindful that meeting together in Christ, we learn of receiving our bodies as given by God; we continue to discover practices of love towards all people in their particular circumstances; we discern with

them how to 'carry each other's burdens' (Gal. 6:2); and we each learn together how to 'carry our own load' (Gal 6:5), therefore –

- (a) recognises that for people with disabilities, their families and carers, daily life can be practically, financially, socially and emotionally more difficult than it is for most people,
- (b) notes that there are many obstacles for people with disabilities, their families and carers, which prevent them hearing the gospel and sharing in Christian fellowship, which we have not always considered,
- (c) requests that all parishes and organisations in the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church develop and implement a plan to remove those obstacles that currently prevent people affected by disability from hearing the gospel and sharing in Christian fellowship, and
- (d) requests Sydney Anglicans and the Diocese in particular to continue to advocate for Government policy that promotes the wellbeing and interests of people with disabilities and their families and carers.

(Deaconess Margaret Rodgers 26/10/09)

### **35/09 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee**

Synod agrees to form a Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC), consisting of 9 persons elected by Synod for a 3 year term and one person appointed by the Archbishop, with the Committee having the additional power to co-opt up to three more persons. The Committee is to be charged with furthering ministry to students in tertiary education throughout the Diocese, including responsibility for –

- (a) recruiting, training and supporting University and technical and further education chaplains and promoting their ministries,
- (b) the allocation of resources in accordance with strategic priorities, which it should report to Synod via the Standing Committee once formulated,
- (c) in consultation with appropriate bodies, preparing for Synod's consideration a diocesan policy framework, measurable goals and strategies on ministry in TAFE and other VET (vocational education and training) institutes, and also a policy on ministry in private HEPs (higher education providers),
- (d) exploring the possibility of further creative partnerships with Anglican University colleges, AFES, Anglican Education Commission and other relevant bodies, and
- (e) encouraging the support of tertiary education ministry from other sources,

and agrees that the Interim Committee appointed by Standing Committee be the Committee until such time as Synod elections can be held.

(Mr Andrew Frank 26/10/09)

### **36/09 Grievance policy and procedure**

Synod receives the report on procedures and sanctions for all standards in *Faithfulness in Service* and, noting the proposed Grievance Policy and Procedure and Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2009 attached to the report –

- (a) requests that members provide comments on the proposed Grievance Policy and Procedure and Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2009 to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2010, and
- (b) requests that a form of the Grievance Policy and Procedure and Parish Relationships Amendment Ordinance 2009 be brought to the Synod in 2010 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by members.

(Archdeacon Ken Allen 26/10/09)

### **37/09 Business managers for parishes**

To further interchange among parishes and diocesan organisations regarding solving the complexity of administration in our parishes, that the Policy 4 Committee –

- (a) pursue each of the recommendations and intentions published in paragraph 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 of the Special Report to the 2009 Synod entitled "Administrative burden on parishes (21/08)/Business managers for churches (25/08)", and

(b) report progress and results to the 2010 sitting of Synod.

(The Rev Michael Williamson 27/10/09)

### **38/09 Bishop Stuart Robinson**

Synod congratulates the Rev Stuart P Robinson on his election as 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn on 2 November last year and his subsequent consecration and installation on 31 January 2009.

Stuart was ordained in the Diocese of Sydney in 1987 after completing his BTh and Dip A from Moore College. After serving as Assistant Minister at Miranda and Doonside & Quakers Hill, he became the founding incumbent of the parish of Quakers Hill 1991 – 1997. After serving several years as Chaplain of St Paul's Trevuren and Priest in Charge of Liege in Belgium from 1998 – 2001, Stuart was employed as Senior Associate Evangelist in the then Department of Evangelism from 2001 – 2005. From 2002 – 2005 he commenced a church plant at Peninsula Community Church, Pymont, before becoming Rector of St Paul's Chatswood in 2005. From 2005 – 2008, Stuart was also engaged as the National Mission Facilitator for the Anglican Church in Australia. Stuart's heart for mission and expertise in church planting has received wide acclaim, as have his two books – *Mission Action Planning* (2004) and *Starting Mission – Shaped Churches: Australia* (2007).

Synod wishes Stuart and his wife, Jane, God's richest blessing in this ministry in Canberra and Goulburn.

(Mrs Lindy Francis 27/10/09)

### **39/09 Canon John Cornford**

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev John Cornford after 28 years of parish ministry, mostly in the Wollongong Region. John entered Moore College in 1977 having been the Chief Radiographer at Mona Vale Hospital. He was Assistant Minister at Blacktown in 1981 and 1982, Assistant at St Mark's West Wollongong in 1983 and 1984, and became Rector at All Saints Albion Park from 1985 till his retirement in 2008.

In 1998 John was elected as a Canon of St Michael's Cathedral and a member of Standing Committee. He also served as the Area Dean of the Lake Illawarra Deanery from 1999, and was elected to General Synod, representing the Sydney Diocese at the General Synods held in Brisbane and Perth.

Outside of Australia John has enjoyed the privileges of preaching in South Africa in Soweto, Durban, and Cape town while on an evangelistic mission from Sydney; of preaching in Fiji and in Seoul South Korea at the Missionary Training Institute; and of serving as locum under the Archbishop of Sabah caring for Christ Church, Likas in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah Diocese) whilst on long service leave.

Together with his wife Sue, John has also ministered at St Christopher's Home for Children in Fiji along with organising financial support for two other Fijian Orphanages – The Anglican Home and the Methodist Home.

Through his years of diligent leadership in the Lord's harvest field at Albion Park, All Saints has grown significantly as has the Wollongong Regional Men's Day since John took over its leadership in 1993, becoming a blessing to Anglican men as well as men from other churches in the Illawarra. In his retirement John will continue as a Canon Emeritus of St Michael's and can regularly be found spurring on the saints of Shellharbour City Centre Anglican Church to love of God and evangelistic endeavour.

Synod thanks God for the faithful service of John and Sue and extends them every blessing in their retirement as they continue to serve God who is good, all the time.

(The Rev Michael Williamson 27/10/09)

### **40/09 Gospel work beyond the Diocese**

Synod gives thanks to God for the due diligence that the committee which has prepared the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2009 has displayed and encourages it to consider how in future the Diocese may return to 5% of income that would be made available for Gospel work beyond the Diocese in future Appropriations and Allocations Ordinances.

(The Rev Trevor Oakley 27/10/09)

#### **41/09 Artarmon: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of Artarmon as a parish with effect from 1 January 2010.

(The Rev Ernest Chau 27/10/09)

#### **42/09 North Ryde: Reclassification as a Parish**

Synod assents to the reclassification of North Ryde as a parish with effect from 1 January 2010.

(The Rev John Chappell 27/10/09)

#### **43/09 Nowra Anglican College (Bomaderry)**

Synod –

- (a) gives thanks and praise to God for the ministry of the College and for the many families reached with the Gospel of Christ since its foundation in 2000;
- (b) recognises the significant contribution of the full time Staff and Student Chaplain, the Rev Graham Thomas, and expresses its thanks for his ministry noting his decision to move to the parish of All Saints Nowra in 2010; and
- (c) in the light of the proposed development of Mission Areas in the Diocese, asks the Standing Committee to expedite a review of the School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975 with a view to strengthening relationships between our Anglican schools and parishes which they serve, and to make the decision about the extra-parochial status of Nowra Anglican College in light of that review.

(Mr Geoff Kyngdon 27/10/09)

#### **44/09 Human rights framework for Australia**

Synod –

- (a) receives the supplementary note from the Diocesan Secretary on 35/08 Human rights framework for Australia, and
- (b) strongly supports the principles concerning the protection of religious freedom outlined in the paper attached to the note 'A National Agenda for Religious Freedom' prepared by Professor Patrick Parkinson AM.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth 27/10/09)

#### **45/09 Policy on consumption of alcohol in the parish context**

Synod receives the report on the consumption of alcohol in the parish context and, recognising that drinks containing alcohol are a gift from God to be enjoyed in moderation but also recognising that alcohol abuse has caused significant damage in our community, requests that the minister and parish council of each parish –

- (a) study the information in the report, and
- (b) determine the parish's own policy on the consumption of alcohol having regard to the Synod's recommendation –

“Except for –

- services of public worship where wine is provided as part of the Lord's Supper,
- private activities in ministry residences, and
- activities undertaken pursuant to a commercial or residential lease of church trust property,

no alcohol should be consumed or made available in the context of any public ministry activity of the parish on church trust property or any private activity held on church trust property, without the approval of the parish council.”

(Archdeacon Deryck Howell 27/10/09)

#### **46/09 Anglican Communion**

Synod –

- (1) welcomes the creation of the Province of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) under the leadership of Archbishop Bob Duncan and notes the GAFCON Primates Council's recognition of the ACNA as genuinely Anglican and its recommendation that Anglican Provinces affirm full communion with the ACNA and –
  - (a) therefore expresses its desire to be in full communion with the ACNA, and
  - (b) furthermore, requests that Standing Committee seek to have a motion brought to the General Synod affirming that the Anglican Church of Australia be in full communion with the ACNA,
- (2) welcomes Archbishop Duncan's assessment that the recent Vatican offer of a Personal Ordinariate 'will not be utilised by the great majority of the Anglican Church in North America's bishops, priests, dioceses and congregations' and urges all Anglicans to reject the Vatican's proposal, and
- (3) asks the General Synod Standing Committee to –
  - (a) bring the Anglican Covenant to the September 2010 General Synod in such a manner as to enable each diocesan synod to consider the document, and
  - (b) bring a motion to the General Synod noting the publication of the Jerusalem Declaration and to encourage its study as a means to Anglican identity and cohesion.

(The Rev Gavin Poole 27/10/09)

#### **47/09 Fund for planting Anglican churches**

In view of Bishop Stewart's new role in Evangelism Ministries, and in light of the reduced capacity of the Diocesan Endowment to fund the purchase of new land through its regular distributions, Synod encourages Standing Committee to consider promoting a fund for the purchase of land in new suburbs for the purpose of planting Anglican Churches in those suburbs, and funding buildings at the appropriate time. This fund would operate similarly to the Vision for Growth fund which in the past saw many churches built in new suburbs. The fund would be voluntary for existing congregations to contribute to, but would also provide an avenue for central funding when the financial situation of the Diocese allows.

(Mr Dan Henby 27/10/09)