



News from Diocesan Council

February to August 2012

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Administrator announced the following clergy appointments during the February to August, 2012 meetings:

Fr Arthur Savage, locum tenens, Mount Gambier
Fr Dennis Eales, locum tenens, O'Halloran Hill
Fr Ian Wilson, priest assistant, Mount Barker
Fr Alan Jones, permission to officiate (PTO)
Fr Bruce Schooling, PTO and Commissary (UK)
Fr Philip Murphy, PTO and Commissary (Melbourne)
Canon Dirk van Dissel, Dean of The Murray
Fr Michael Varnish, priest assistant, Port Elliot-Goolwa
Fr Ross Morony, locum tenens, Happy Valley
Fr Chris Talbot, priest assistant, Mount Barker
Fr Max Bowers, locum tenens, Onkaparinga Valley
Fr David Patterson, priest-in-charge, O'Halloran Hill
Fr Denys Tonks, locum tenens, Mount Gambier.

ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Fr Dennis Eales, Mrs Margaret Adams, Mrs Vicki Plummer and Mr Jonathan Woore.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Diocesan Council made the following appointments:
Anglicare Board - Mr Philip Evans
South Australian Council of Churches
- General Council - Mrs Patricia Foord.

RETIREMENT

The thanks and appreciation of Diocesan Council for their work over many years in the diocese was conveyed to Canon Brian Ashworth and his wife, Anne. In recognition of his service Council presented Fr Brian Ashworth with a book voucher.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MATTERS

Safer Church Principles (Child Safe Environment):

Mr Peter Chapman, Dr Ted Sandercock and Mrs Julia Drought, of the Pastoral District of Southern Vales, together with Fr Paul Devenport, Priest Assistant, and reporting to the Administrator, were asked to organise the National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA) Safe Training Courses in liaison with that organisation across the diocese. Ten seminars have been organised for those who hold a ministry position in the diocese. This includes anyone who holds a licence as a bishop, priest or deacon, or has a pastoral assistants' permission, anyone involved in children's ministry, all choir directors, adult servers and churchwardens.

Parish of Kingston-Robe: At the request of the Parish Council the Diocesan Council recommended to the Synod that this parish be recognised as a Pastoral District.

Pastoral District of Southern Vales: The Pastoral District Council petitioned Diocesan Council to recognise the District as a Parish. Council agreed to leave this matter lay on the table. The matter has since been taken off the agenda.

Cathedral Roofing Project: Council accepted a recommendation from the Finance, Audit & Investment Committee (FAI), that the quote obtained from Joe Haffer Roofing for the Murraylands Cathedral roof repairs be accepted and that the diocese on this one occasion fund 50% of the cost.

Pastoral District of Pinnaroo: Letters were communicated to Canon John Beiers and Mr John Strachan thanking them for their ministry to the Mallee District. Council approved a request from the District to demolish the corrugated iron building, which was the original church, as it is beyond repair. It is the wish of the people of the combined pastoral district that they move towards a replacement demountable building which would be used as a hall and meeting room.

Church Properties: Council considered applications to sell the Bordertown rectory, the Moorook Church and to purchase a rectory at Mount Gambier. Settlements for these properties have all been finalised. Further approvals have been granted to sell the Pinnaroo Church and vacant land at Naracoorte. The Adelaide Hills Council sought permission to construct a footpath and right of way at Balhannah in the Parish of Onkaparinga Valley.

Social Questions Committee: The Administrator wrote to all parishes and pastoral districts in the diocese seeking names of people willing to be on this committee and only one response was received. Council thought this matter could be reconsidered once a bishop had been appointed as part of a vision for the future.

Governance Training: Diocesan Council accepted a proposal from Community Business Bureau (CBB) for Diocesan Councillors to undertake a three hour Directors and Governance training session for not-for-profit organisations.

Provincial Council Shared Task Force: At a previous meeting Council resolved to explore a shared service opportunity with the Province or the Diocese of Adelaide for a Safer Ministry Officer as well as a Risk

Manager. A Task Force comprising the Registrars and two representatives from each diocese was established, however only one meeting has successfully be arranged.

Provision of Rectory Whitegoods: After much consideration Diocesan Council approved the following rectory whitegoods policy:

That all parishes and pastoral districts shall provide for the rectory the following whitegoods: a stove, a fridge, freezer, washing machine and, if possible, a clothes dryer and a microwave oven and dishwasher if space permits.

That the diocesan housing guideline be amended accordingly.

In the case of parishes/pastoral districts where the current priest owns the whitegoods it was suggested that planning for the future by setting aside funds to purchase whitegoods when needed was highly recommended.

Religious Practitioner Exempt Account 2012:

Council issued a simplified regulation for its RPE Accounts. The new regulation can be located on the diocesan website.

Diocesan Website: The Constitution, Ordinances and Regulations have been uploaded to the Diocesan Website for ease of access and for transparency. www.murray.anglican.org

Deaths: Council expressed its regret at the sad death of Fr Mark Boughey former member of Diocesan Council, and extended its condolences on the deaths of Fr Grant Pacey and Fr Greg Simon to their families and acknowledged their life and work in the diocese.

FINANCE & AUDIT

Implementation of Clergy Centralised Stipends:

Payments made to clergy via the Registry commenced on 1st July 2012. Parishes are paying these emoluments to the diocese generally in a timely manner.

Assistance for Registrar: Council approved a Position Description for an Administration and Payroll Officer. The role was advertised and the position offered to the successful candidate, however the position was declined. In order to progress this matter approaches to two employment agencies have since been made.

NATSIAC Funding: Diocesan Council noted that historically the diocese has not financially assisted NATSIAC and agreed not to fund them on this occasion. It further reflected on its support to the church in Papua New Guinea.

Land at Ellendale Avenue, Murray Bridge: Council agreed to engage a surveyor for advice on what would be required regarding erecting a fence on and sub-division of the Land at Ellendale Avenue. At the request of the parish this matter has been taken off the agenda until the appointment of the next bishop.

Distribution Rate: The interest distribution rate for the six month period 1st October 2011 to 31st March 2012 was set at 4.25% and paid on all diocesan/parish investments.

Diocesan Travel Policy: Council accepted the recommendation of the FAI Committee that claiming of travel expenses for attending to diocesan business, by appointment or request, be paid in the form of a reimbursement to the committee member, upon request, at the rate of mileage paid to clergy not in full time ministry, currently .40 cents per kilometre.

Funding during the period of Administration: Council accepted the recommendation of the FAI Committee that for the time Archdeacon Seabrook is the Administrator of the Diocese the grant to the Parish of Mount Barker be increased to 3.5/7ths of the minimum stipend from 1st June, 2012.

MATTERS ARISING FROM SYNOD

Motion of Thanks: This motion was one of thanks to Fr Brian Ashworth for his service to the diocese and recommended that he be appointed as Canon Emeritus. It was considered that it is the right of the bishop only to make such appointments and agreed to lay this matter on the table for forwarding in due course to the bishop, when appointed, for his consideration.

Commitment to Evangelism: This motion requested that a specific person be employed by the diocese to guide and support all parishes/pastoral districts in evangelism. This matter will be reconsidered by Council at its December meeting after the FAI Committee has considered various funding options.

Diamond Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II: This motion requested the Administrator to convey that the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of The Murray sends its wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the Diamond Jubilee of her Accession and assures Her Majesty of its prayers.