



# News from Diocesan Council

September 2018

## Diocesan Council Membership

The Bishop welcomed all in attendance and noted that Fr Andrew Forder (Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership) and Des Warner (Murraylands Mission Partnership) are in attendance in the acting "as if" capacity as acclaimed at an earlier special call of Synod. Special thanks was shared with the Chancellor Dr Robert Tong for his time amongst us.

## National Redress Scheme

The Bishop welcomed Amanda Harfield, Registrar & Synod Secretary of the Diocese of Adelaide, who gave a presentation on the National Redress Scheme. This Scheme provides acknowledgement and support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse and was created in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Anglican Church of Australia has committed to joining the Scheme established by the Commonwealth Government and the Church's General Synod Standing Committee has called on its dioceses, schools and agencies to join the Scheme. Diocesan Council will be addressing its involvement at the December meeting as decision making processes are finalised within the Scheme.

## Property Report

Parishes and Pastoral Districts have been carefully and prayerfully considering their property needs for the future and in line with requests to Council the following is progressing;

Beachport - submissions by sales agents received.

Clarendon - Suggest the property is auctioned.

Karoonda - Sold above advertised price.

Mypolonga - Church sale Contract being actioned.

Old Noarlunga - Auction suggested method of sale for two parcels of land; 1 ha of vacant land and the St Philip and St James church property.

O'Halloran Hill - A desire has been expressed to purchase some of the site.

## Diocesan Growth Strategy

The Bishop indicated that following Synod John Warner is doing some work around the Diocese, firstly in the Riverland, then in the Murraylands and he is also in touch with the Southern Suburbs. The Bishop suggested that he would like to continue to utilise the services of John for 2019.

## Bishop's Portrait

Ms Liz Hirstle, an artist from Nairne who was commissioned to paint the Bishop's portrait, met with the Council to unveil the completed piece. Conversation evolved sharing the creative journey from both an artist's perspective and the experience of the subject.

## Retirement

After prayerful reflection the Bishop informed Council that he intends to retire on or before 31st May 2019. He referred to his earlier advice, before accepting election as the bishop, that he would not expect to work much beyond January 2019 (his 67th birthday). He stated that this has not been an easy decision as he is so committed to the Diocese and its renewal in the service of the gospel.

As provided by our Ordinances, the Vicar General will convene the Bishop Election Committee and Bishop John prays they will be able to complete their task in a way that will minimise the length of any vacancy.

The Bishop is aware of how much still needs to be done to place the Diocese on a firm footing for the future but is convinced that the Diocesan Council has both the resolve and the commitment to take things forward. He has asked for prayers for each other and our various responsibilities and the tasks we face in the coming months.

## Appointments Made by Council

Rob Foggo has nominated and been confirmed to fill a lay vacancy associated with the Provincial Council for the triennium.

## Good News Stories

*Cathedral Rededication*, since the Statutes for the Cathedral have been issued, Fr David Price has been installed Dean of The Cathedral. Two Lay Canons were also installed; Michael Bleby to the Walden Stall and Murray McFarlane to the Porter Stall. A service of Thanksgiving for the community followed the Council meeting.

*Two Chapter Houses for Growth*, Onkaparinga Valley Parish Council met with Diocesan Council to discuss and seek approval to proceed with two Chapter House developments. These will alleviate identifiable barriers but also provide space for ongoing mission and ministry in the area which is growing. Young families are being introduced to the Church through the ministry of the Op Shop and untapped areas have also been identified.

*Anglican Community Expo*, a joint venture between the Southern Suburbs and Western Fleurieu Pastoral Districts, was held at Seaford Christian Churches showcasing the Anglican Church and its agencies working for the community.

## **Website**

[www.murray.anglican.org](http://www.murray.anglican.org)

## **Facebook**

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