

Diocese to raise funds for court proceedings

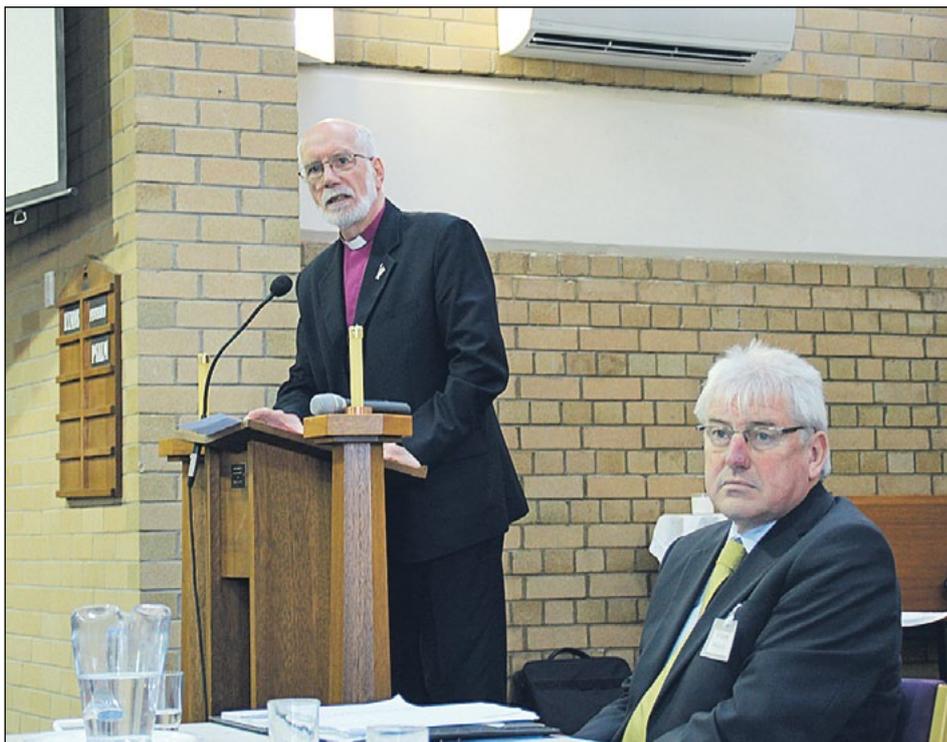
Meeting shows strong support for diocesan leadership team

Bishop Ian Palmer has expressed his thanks after about 250 people attended a meeting on Saturday July 19, to discuss matters of Diocesan importance.

“Almost every Parish in the geographically large Diocese was represented including clergy and leading lay people,” Bishop Ian said. “Following morning prayer I was assisted by General Manager Graham Higham in presenting a comprehensive history of the financial situation currently being faced by the Diocese.

“We also presented details of ways the difficulties have been handled to date, including the current legal matter with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.”

He said that during Saturday’s meeting, he had presented a proposal to the Parishes in the Diocese to contribute towards a fund to enable the Diocese to defend these actions so that the church could preserve the resources that had been given by many people for the benefit of local communities, and to



EXPLANATION: Bishop Ian and Diocesan General Manager Graham Higham explained the background to the High Court proceedings. The court has authorised the Diocese to raise money from trusts to defend the court action.



SUPPORT: The meeting attracted about 250 people, representing most parishes in the Diocese of Bathurst, and showed a strong mood of support for the leadership of the diocese in its court procedures.

develop the Church’s ministry across the Central West of New South Wales.

“Each parish has been allocated an amount of money to raise on a pro rata basis and it will be their decision as to how they raise that amount of money.

“The ministry of the church is valued by the wider community and is especially important at times of bereavements, baptisms, marriage, in sickness and in nurturing and supporting people through welfare, community and educational activities.

“Not only are these services valued, but the church is part of the glue that holds our scattered communities together.”

Bishop Ian said he was pleased with the involvement of the church community that attended the meeting and raised many salient points with great courtesy and respect.

Parish Councils across the Diocese have been advised that Bishop Ian and Diocesan Archdeacon Frank Hetherington are available to discuss these matters with them.

General Synod considers viability and structures of Australian Anglican church

At last month's meeting of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia many hours of discussion and debate were devoted to a Report from *The Viability and Structures Task Force* that has met regularly since 2010 and been chaired by Bishop Andrew Curnow.

This report shows that the Anglican Church is at a crossroads. Out of the 23 dioceses six have only a marginal chance of survival.

The report says, "each diocese should critically examine itself and ask questions about its purpose, ethos, mission and culture." There needs to be openness to structural change and new directions (p8-037).

The report is strong on its description of the problem and in noting the need for change, but reticent about models that can shape the vision into the future.

However, it quotes with approval work done in the UK by the Rev'd Bob Jackson who writes, "A diocese... can hold the key to the future of the Church in its locality. By being proactive, by joining its policies around a coherent aim, by giving strategic impetus to every local church, by all the ways in which it can itself model the marks of a healthy community of faith and help to multiply new and healthy expressions of local church life, the diocese can ensure that the church grows rather than declines in the twenty first century."

Jackson describes some ways in which a diocese can be more effective:

Permission giving mode: the bishop encourages experimentation and backs it with diocesan resources and training;

Proactive mode: led by the bishop the diocese articulates and promotes its own programs for better practice and new expressions of mission in the local church;

Policy mode: where practices in relation to finances, employment, pastoral visitation, asset management, housing, training and evangelism are all aligned to a diocesan policy for imaginative church growth;

Strategy mode: where clear goals are set by the bishop and the diocesan leadership to achieve the policies of the diocese.

He argues that mission is not an add-on but must be integrated into every aspect and activity of diocesan life.

In our diocese the Mission Action Plan generated by Bishop John Stead in 2012 summarized the vision of the diocese as "To know Christ and to make him known",

and then said that we would live this vision through the **Five Marks Of Mission** of the Anglican Communion. A strategy for action was not documented as part of this plan.

"To know Christ and to make him known" has echoes of the words we hear each week. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength ... and love your neighbour..."

The worship of God in church is in part an expression of our love for God and knowing Christ; but the expression of love for our neighbour, or making Christ known, is seen in how we serve our communities both as individual Christians and in what we do together. Avenues for our service can be seen in the **Five Marks Of Mission**:

1. Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving, reconciling love for all people
2. Nurture Christian disciples and build welcoming, transforming communities of faith
3. Respond to human need with loving service for the poor and needy
4. Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation
5. Protect, care for and renew life on our planet

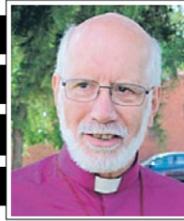
(Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion – ABM-A altered)

The question I constantly ask as I travel our Diocese is, "How is this community of Anglican Christians life-giving?" I ask myself and I may well ask others!

A community that is alive and life-giving honours God; after all, the Triune God revealed in Scripture gives life, first of all in creation, then through the resurrection of Jesus – God's new creation, then in the gift of the life-giving Holy Spirit. Such a community receives its life from God!

When I begin prayer I deliberately sit with my hands open and upwards on my knees as I open myself to the life-giving

BY
BISHOP
IAN
PALMER



love of God. When we turn from being self-centred to loving God and our neighbour; to knowing Christ and making him known; we experience a journey from death to life. Seeking this is something we must do each day in personal prayer and when we come together for worship.

So, what do I hold in these upturned hands? Well, nothing! Nothing except my emptiness, brokenness, pain, failure and often confusion. I hold open my wounds and all that needs God's forgiveness and healing. Then when I come to receive the life of Christ in Holy Communion again I offer empty, upturned hands.

At the end of the *Viability and Structures Report*, Bishop Stephen Pickard writes a theological reflection that concludes, "The healing and repair of the Body of Christ always begins just underneath the wound. This is where God's love is to be found slowly and patiently doing its work, for nothing can be loved at speed. And from this place energy flows for new life and witness in the world."

Mixing the metaphors Leonard Cohen famously sang, "Ring the bells that still can ring, Forget the perfect offering; There is a crack, a crack in everything; That's how the light gets in."

The full report of the Task Force can be read or downloaded from http://www.anglican.org.au/general-synods/2014/Documents/books/Book%208_for%20website.pdf

If you are reading this online, this address and others in this newsletter are hyperlinked to the relevant web pages.

CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

◆ **The Reverend Craig Moody** has resigned as Rector of Holy Trinity Dubbo, and will take up an appointment as Rector of the Parish of Caloundra in the Diocese of Brisbane. He will conclude his ministry in the Parish of Dubbo on the first Sunday in September; the date for his installation in Caloundra yet to be confirmed.

Melbourne Archbishop elected Primate of Australian church

Sustaining a national presence and strengthening the church's contribution to rural communities are among the most important challenges facing the Anglican Church of Australia, believes the new leader, Archbishop Philip Freier.

As Primate, Dr Freier assumes a leadership role in the Anglican Church of Australia's General Synod and its various bodies. Although some aspects of the Primacy carry constitutional authority, the role is not like that of the heads of other denominations.

For example, the Primate does not have authority over other bishops in the Church. Rather, he is first amongst equals. Nevertheless, the Primate's position is one of considerable influence.

"I look forward to the opportunity of working with the church around the country. The church across its parishes, schools and service agencies makes a powerful contribution to Australian society," Dr Freier said.

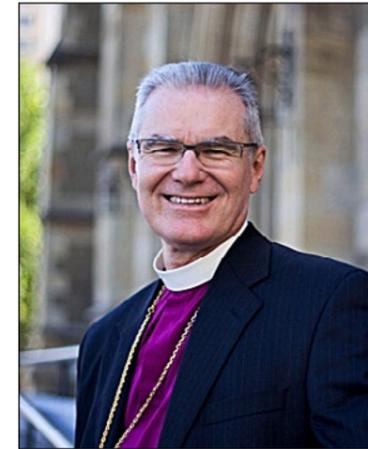
Dr Freier was elected by a special Primate Electoral College of the General Synod (the 'parliament' of the national church) which met in Adelaide at the end of June. He commenced his new duties at the conclusion of the Synod on July 4, when Brisbane Archbishop Phillip Aspinall officially concluded his term as Primate after nine years.

Dr Freier, 59, has been Archbishop of the Melbourne diocese since December

2006. He was elected at a time of some division in the diocese, with one election synod failing to choose a candidate before his name was put up second time round. Since then, theological and churchmanship tensions have eased enormously in Melbourne, attributed in part to Dr Freier's calm nature, even-handedness, willingness to listen, and desire to engage as widely as possible.

He set out to encourage Anglicans. He is also regarded as an able administrator who has worked to stabilise the diocesan balance sheet.

Raised in a working class suburb in Brisbane, where his father worked for Queensland Railways, Dr Freier attended Virginia primary school and Hendra high school. He attained a science degree, gained education qualifications and asked to be posted to indigenous communities. In Far North Queensland he was profoundly influenced by Aboriginal



PRIMATE: Melbourne's Archbishop Philip Freier has been elected 'first among equals' as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Christians and underwent what he calls a conversion of identity to become a strong Christian within the Anglican tradition.

The new Primate has championed women in ministry, and became only the second archbishop to promote a woman to bishop (Barbara Darling in 2008). He has led a series of high-profile breakfast conversations in Federation Square, discussing important social issues with some of the foremost experts in particular fields.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will preach at the installation of Dr Freier

as the new Primate at a service of Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne on Wednesday August 13.

Archbishop Welby has included the installation service into a tight schedule, flying from the Solomon Islands the day prior, and heading out to New Zealand the next day.

For more news from General Synod, go to http://www.anglican.org.au/general-synods/2014/Pages/Media_Releases.aspx

Bishop Ian writes to PM on Iraq genocide

In response to the horrific persecution of Christians in Northern Iraq Bishop Ian has written, as Bishop of the Diocese, to the Prime Minister on this matter.

He has also encouraged anyone else who feels so inclined, to write a similar letter which will add weight to his call for action in this desperate situation.

He has pointed out that while the situation in Gaza is likewise horrific and is rightly attracting much media attention, many thousand more are being slaughtered in Iraq but this is largely being ignored by the western media.

For more information, go to <http://www.anglicannews.org/europe-middle-east.aspx> where there are several articles on persecution of Christians in Iraq.

The Bishop's letter to the Prime Minister follows:

Dear Mr Abbott,

Like many Australians I have nothing but praise and admiration for the effective work The Hon. Julie Bishop and her team have done at the United Nations Security Council over the past week or so with respect to the "downing" of the MH17 aircraft. The speed with which Australia's resolution was put together, agreed and passed reveals her (and her team's) amazing skills both in diplomacy and determination.

Having done this I am now asking Australia to take action as a member of the UN Security Council to help protect minorities in Northern Iraq.

How can Australia use its position and influence to raise world awareness to this genocide and to stop it?

The ISIS jihadists have forced

Christians as well as Yazidis and Shabaks out of Mosul and the Nineveh Plains. Reports say that thousands have been killed along with Shia Muslims and tens of thousands or more made homeless and forced to flee for their lives. Many were given just 24 hours to leave and all their belongings were stolen from them.

Christians and Yazidis are ethnoreligious groups dating back the best part of two millennia and more; Shabaks have lived in the region for hundreds of years.

Prior to the US-led invasion in 2003 up to a million Christians lived in Iraq, with many residing in areas such as Mosul where the Assyrian and Chaldean Christian communities date back to the early centuries of Christianity.

We are witnessing genocide on a scale **(continued on next page)**

Novel idea to help fund Endowment

❑ Book launch at Bishops court

A small group of about twelve people gathered at Bishops court in Bathurst on Thursday evening, July 17, for an informal launch of *A Home for Moira*, a historical novel by Gulgong author Rochelle Sutherland.

Ms Sutherland, who writes under the pen-name Caroline McCarthy, has very generously donated the proceeds from sales of her novel to support the Endowment of the See, the trust fund which provides for the stipend and costs of the Bishop of Bathurst.

At the annual Synod meeting last year it was revealed that the endowment was critically under-funded, and was expected to run out of funds altogether by the end of 2015.

Dressed in period costume for the book launch, Rochelle Sutherland read from the opening chapter of her book to introduce some of the principal characters of the story, which is set in the Lakes District of Northern England.

She also invited Bathurst resident Al McCartan to introduce some of the male characters by reading from a subsequent chapter.

In thanking Rochelle for her generous donation to the endowment, Bishop Ian also congratulated her on her excellent introduction to the characters.

“When reading something you are



GENEROUS: Dressed as the lead character in her novel, Rochelle Sutherland read from the opening chapter to introduce the characters in her story. Rochelle has generously donated the proceeds from her novel to the Endowment of the See, which funds the Bishop of the Diocese.

intimately acquainted with, you can bring out subtly nuances not seen by those reading it for the first time,” Bishop Ian said, adding that this intimate knowledge of her work had enabled the author to

make her characters appear as very real people.

He has invited Rochelle to present a similar reading at the annual Synod dinner in September.

Bishop’s letter to Prime Minister

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as fearful as happened in the Balkans or Rwanda. The difference is that now we know what is happening as it is happening and those with influence and power have a moral responsibility to do something about it. I am concerned because what is taking place in Iraq and Syria, away from the media spotlight, is extremely serious and there is, at present, a lack of collective will to stop the Jihadists.

There are good reasons why Australia should take a lead.

First of all Khaled Sharrouf is a convicted terrorist from Sydney and he is a significant leader. He has issued threats against these minority groups and he has personally been involved in executions of people

belonging to minority groups.

Secondly Australia has a noble history of standing up for human rights in the United Nations including our significant involvement in the drafting of the UN Charter. Now is the time for Australia, once again, to be using its influence for the good of people groups that do not have the power and influence of effective media support.

Many people in my Diocese are extremely concerned about this persecution and I ask you to take a lead by using the goodwill and influence that Australia undoubtedly has.

Yours sincerely,
The Rt Rev’d Ian Palmer
Bishop of Bathurst

The Anglican Parish of Cudal’s

MEN’S DINNER

Friday 22nd August 2014

at the
Food Wine and Cultural Centre, Cudal

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Guest Speaker

Bob Mac Smith, Canola Mill

\$25.00 per head

Book with Graham on 0427 642058
(Please leave a message if not answered)

All Tickets to be paid for by 16th August 2014

Send cheques to:
Mrs Carol Brown
7 Smith Street
CUDAL NSW 2864