

Bathurst Diocese

SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

51st SYNOD

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

HOLY TRINITY PARISH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, KELSO

MINUTES



WELCOME, REFLECTION & PRAYER

The Synod commenced meeting at 9:00am with a welcome by the Rev'd Tim St Quintin, Synod Chaplain, who also gave an acknowledgement of country and some brief instructions for members of Synod.

Deacon Joshua Clayton of the Catholic Diocese of Bathurst was invited to share a message of greeting from Bishop Michael McKenna (Catholic Bishop of Bathurst).

Bishop Richard Condie (Anglican Diocese of Tasmania) then spoke to the Synod from Isaiah 12, following which the Synod joined together in the Synod Prayer.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

9:20-9:58am The President, Bishop Mark Calder, addressed the Synod on lessons learnt over the past five years and prayers for the next three years as the diocese continues to *Share Jesus for Life*.

M23: Thanks for external support

Mover: *The Rev'd James Daymond*

Seconder: *The Rev'd Phil Howes*

Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the ongoing generous partnership and financial support of the Diocese of Sydney, the Bush Church Aid Society and many Sydney parishes and individuals who support gospel work in this Diocese. Further, Synod requests that the Registrar pass on our deep gratitude to the relevant organisations, parishes and, where known, individuals.

CARRIED

The Rev'd James Daymond then led the Synod in giving thanks to God for the partnership and support as set out in the motion.

LAUNCH OF HOPE25

Synod gave leave for the Rt Rev'd Bishop Condie to address the Synod on the Hope25 campaign. After Bishop Condie spoke, the President shared with the Synod some of the plans that are being put in place for Hope25 in this Diocese.

M11: Hope25

Mover: *The Rev'd James Daymond*

Seconder: *The Rev'd Jonny Lush*

That this Synod wholeheartedly supports the Anglican Church of Australia's project, *Hope25 – 'Hope in an Uncertain World'*, sharing the hope we have in Jesus Christ, and encourages every parish and community to participate.

CARRIED

Following carriage of the motion, the President declared Hope25 to be officially launched in this Diocese.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The President warmly welcomed all Synod members, and especially those present for the first time, and gave a few explanatory remarks regarding the operation of Synod along with some instructions for members.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

M1: Order of Business

Mover: Dr Warwick Baines

Seconder: Mr Mark Galbraith

Synod adopts the Order of Business recommended by the Steering Committee, as tabled.

CARRIED

M2: Secretaries of Synod

Mover: Dr Warwick Baines

Seconder: Archdeacon Tim St Quintin

Synod agrees to the appointment of the Rev'd Bob Cameron and Mrs Kath Thornhill as Secretaries of Synod.

CARRIED

M3: Chair of Committees

Mover: The Rev'd Bob Cameron

Seconder: Archdeacon Andrew Thornhill

Synod agrees to the appointment of Mr Mark Olsen as Chair of Committees.

CARRIED

M4: Elections of Boards and Committees

Mover: The Rev'd Bob Cameron

Seconder: Mr Adrian Ahern

Synod agrees to the following procedures for the conduct of the 2024 Synod elections:

- 1) to conduct the ballots by electronic means, using the voting platform, Election Runner;
- 2) to open the ballots at 11am on Saturday 21st September 2024, and close them at 2:00pm on the same day;
- 3) to request that the Registrar advise the results of the elections to Synod members by email no later than 6pm on the same day;

and agrees to the suspension of so much of the Rules of Synod as would prevent the adoption of these procedures.

CARRIED

M5: Reports

Mover: Archdeacon Andrew Thornhill

Seconder: Lisa Milton

Synod moves that the reports, as included in Synod Book 1, be tabled and received.

CARRIED

M6: Permission for Presentations by People other than Synod Members

Mover: The Rev'd James Daymond

Seconder: Ms Sue West

Synod gives leave for the Rev'd Dr Andrew Ford and Mr Simon Miller to address Synod on behalf of Anglicare and for the Rev'd Paul Sampson to address Synod on behalf of BCA.

CARRIED

Synod then adjourned for Morning tea at 10:30am and resumed at 10:55am.

LAUNCH OF ANGLICARE CENTRAL WEST

Mr Simon Miller (CEO, Anglicare Sydney) addressed the Synod briefly about the history of Anglicare and the Diocese of Bathurst, both founded by Bishop Frederick Barker. The Rev'd Dr Andrew Ford (Chief Executive, Community and Mission) then made a presentation to Synod about the work of Anglicare and the partnership that has been formed between Anglicare Sydney and the Diocese, to be known as Anglicare Central West.

M21: Anglicare

Mover: Ms Sue West

Seconder: Dean James Hodson

That this Synod:

- a) Gives thanks to God for our former partnership with Anglicare Canberra-Goulburn and those who have partnered with us in the work of the Gospel over many years;
- b) Wholeheartedly endorses moving to Anglicare Sydney as our provider of Anglicare services in this diocese;
- c) Welcomes the establishment of Anglicare Central West and the appointment of a regional manager for our Diocese;
- d) Commits to praying for God's ongoing blessing on this work; and
- e) Looks forward with anticipation to seeing how the Lord will use this new chapter to help many people in need and further the ministry of Sharing Jesus for Life.

CARRIED

Following carriage of the motion, Sue West led the Synod in prayer for Anglicare Central West.

The President then declared Anglicare Central West to be officially launched in this Diocese.

PRESENTATION FROM BCA

The Rev'd Paul Sampson addressed the Synod about the work of Bush Church Aid across the Diocese, outlining 10 benefits of the partnership between BCA and the Diocese of Bathurst and thanking Synod for that partnership.

INTRODUCTION TO AND EXPLANATION OF ELECTIONS

The President made some brief remarks about the elections and invited those who had been nominated to stand in place so that Synod members might be reminded of those they knew.

The Rev'd Tim Smith (Grenfell) then explained the operation of the elections using the Election Runner platform and offered assistance to any members needing it.

MOTIONS BROUGHT AT THE REQUEST OF BISHOP-IN-COUNCIL

M7: Finance and Accounts for 2023

Mover: Dr Warwick Baines

Seconder: Mr Mark Galbraith

Synod receives the audited financial statements and accounts for the Synod Management Fund, the Anglican Property Trust, the Anglican Managed Investment Fund and the Endowment of the See for the year ended 31 December 2023.

CARRIED

M8: Synod Management Fund Budget Estimates for 2025

Mover: Dr Warwick Baines

Seconder: Mr Mark Galbraith

Synod adopts the 2025 Synod Management Fund Budget Estimates.

CARRIED

M9: Schedule of Synod Contributions for 2025

Mover: Dr Warwick Baines

Seconder: Mr Mark Galbraith

Synod adopts the 2025 Schedule of Synod Contributions.

CARRIED

Synod then adjourned for Lunch at 12:25pm and resumed at 1:00pm.

M10: Professional Standards Ordinance Taskforce

Mover: Mr Glenn Murray

Seconded: The Rev'd Bob Cameron

Synod receives the report of the Professional Standards Ordinance Taskforce and on the request of Bishop-in-Council, grants leave for the taskforce to continue meeting, with a view to bringing a new ordinance to the second session of the 51st Synod in 2025.

CARRIED

QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN

Q1: Communicant Members

The Rev'd Sally Phelps asked the following question:

With reference to the definition of a 'communicant member' (clause 103 of the Administration Ordinance 2023), the requirements to take part in a general meeting (clause 6.10 of the Parishes Ordinance 2023) and the qualifications to hold office (clause 7.1 of the Parishes Ordinance 2023) would the President please clarify who qualifies as a member of our churches in this diocese?

To which the President replied:

The definition of communicant member is set out in Cl 103 of the Administration Ordinance. In brief, it means someone who has been baptised and confirmed according to the rights of the Anglican Church, is over 18, and has received communion at least three times in the previous twelve months.

In each of clauses 6.10 and 7.1 of the Parish Ordinance, the test for whether someone can do certain things is slightly different.

So, to be able to take part in a parish meeting or be counted in a parish meeting quorum or vote requires you to be a communicant member and have attended services during three months within the past twelve months; and to be able to hold a parish office you must be a communicant member and have regularly attended services in that parish for at least six months.

There would be merit in the Ordinance Review Panel being led by Bob Cameron to review this and make some recommendations to Bishop-in-Council to be really clear about these matters across both Ordinances.

Q2: Clergy Retirement

The Rev'd Bob Cameron asked the following question:

What action has been taken since the Synod referred the following motion to Bishop-in-Council in September 2021?

Synod requests that Bishop-in-Council review the current rules regarding the retirement of clergy in the diocese, with reference to (but not limited to)

- i. the age of retirement of parish clergy;
- ii. options and processes for extensions of clergy appointments beyond the nominated retirement date; and
- iii. roles of the bishop, parish, and Bishop-in-Council in decisions to extend the appointments of parish clergy;

and asks Bishop-in-Council to bring a report with recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

To which the President replied:

The session of the Synod which met on 18 September 2021 (Part A) was adjourned and scheduled to resume on 5 February 2022 (Part B). However, as recorded in the minutes of the second session of the same Synod, held on 17 September 2022, the Synod noted “that Part B of the first session of the 50th Synod, due to be held on 5th February 2022, was cancelled by Bishop-in-Council due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time, and that the matters scheduled to be considered then were subsequently dealt with by Bishop-in-Council as noted in its report to this Synod.”

Bishop-in-Council in due course referred the request to the Ordinance Review Panel. Due to a change of chairmanship of the panel, however, the matter fell into abeyance, in part at least because the new chair was unaware that it had been so referred. As things should happen, the current chair of the panel is also the person who brought the original motion to the Synod in 2021 and will bring the motion to us again in this session.

Q3: APT building maintenance

Mr Doug Milton asked the following question:

The Anglican Property Trust owns all the Church land and buildings in the Diocese. In a normal lease arrangement, the property owner is responsible for the structural maintenance of the buildings. Please explain the obligations and responsibilities of both the Parish and the Anglican Property Trust regarding repairs and maintenance on the buildings.

To which the President replied:

While Bathurst APT is the legal owner of all Diocesan property, it holds the property for the benefit of the beneficiary of the trust, which in each case will be the relevant parish. So, there is a sense in which we all own the property together, but the APT is the guardian or protector of the property in order to ensure the property is retained and used in accord with the trust.

Unless there is an insurance claim, repairs and maintenance are the responsibility of the beneficiary of the trust, so the analogy mentioned in the question does not apply.

While the APT has a vested interest in buildings being properly maintained it does not have capacity to monitor the state of buildings, nor to undertake necessary maintenance. Hence it is critically important that buildings be regularly inspected by Churchwardens and maintenance performed in a timely manner. Parishes could consider putting some money aside each year into a maintenance fund which may then be drawn upon as need arises.

Q4: Future strategy for building usability

Mr Doug Milton asked the following question:

Given that there is an increasing number of old buildings in the diocese that require significant structural work that is beyond the capacity of parishes to fund, what is the future strategy to keep these buildings usable?

To which the President replied:

There is no present strategy “to keep these buildings usable” other than to encourage parishes to undertake regular inspection and keep up with maintenance. Unless the parish can fund structural work (including through its own fundraising and, e.g., government or private grants) then the future of the building may be in doubt. The APT holds no funds for repairs or maintenance.

The questioner could try a motion along the lines of “Synod respectfully requests APT to investigate the merits of a strategy to keep our buildings usable” or similar wording, to help move forward to the desired outcome reflected in the question.

MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN

M12: Anniversary of the Anglican Board of Mission

Mover: Ms Sue West

Seconder: Ms Jane Francis

Synod:

1. Notes with gratitude that the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) will celebrate its 175th Anniversary on 29 October 2025 and
 - a. encourages the Diocese and its faith communities to both participate in events organised by ABM and to consider organising their own events in 2025 or 2026 to mark this achievement, highlighting particularly the involvement of members of this Diocese over that time;
 - b. explores with ABM where God is calling this Diocese to participate in God's ongoing mission through ABM to complement the existing mission partnerships it has;
 - c. asks the Bishop to write to ABM to convey the interest of this diocese in celebrating this significant anniversary with ABM;
2. Gives thanks for the over \$20,000 donated by the parishes, schools and church groups of this Diocese to the work of ABM and Anglicans in Development (AID) in 2023 and for the prayers said in support of our partners, particularly prayers for the peace of Jerusalem, Israel, Gaza and the Middle East; and
3. Encourages parishes to consider supporting ABM (non-tax-deductible) Church to Church and Reconciliation Programs that work with First Nations peoples throughout Australia and partner churches overseas.

CARRIED

M13: Future of Anglican Women's Association

Mover: Ms Janice Keys

Seconder: Archdeacon Tim St Quintin

Synod respectfully ask Bishop in Council to consider the future of Anglican Women's Association (AWA) within the Diocese.

CARRIED

M14: Annual Appraisal of Clergy

Mover: Ms Janet Price

Seconder: Mr Mike Middleton

Synod respectfully requests that the Bishop and Bishop-in-Council devise and implement a regular review of the ministry of our clergy, so that we may better support, equip, develop and encourage them in their work.

DEFEATED

M15: Clergy Retirement

Mover: The Rev'd Bob Cameron

Seconder: The Rev'd Phil Howes

Synod, noting its motion in 2021 with regard to clergy retirement, requests that Bishop-in-Council review the current rules regarding the retirement of clergy in the diocese, with reference to (but not limited to):

1. the age of retirement of parish clergy;
2. options and processes for extensions of clergy appointments beyond the nominated retirement date; and
3. roles of the bishop, parish, and Bishop-in-Council in decisions to extend the appointments of parish clergy;

and asks Bishop-in-Council to bring a report with recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Synod.

CARRIED

M16: Definition of Communicant Member

Mover: The Rev'd Sally Phelps

Seconder: The Rev'd Ben Mackay

Synod respectfully requests that Bishop-in-Council review the necessary ordinances to clarify the definition of a communicant member in this diocese. Synod further requests that the bishop publish the outcome along with any explanatory notes and implications he deems helpful.

CARRIED

M17: Ministry handbook

Mover: The Rev'd Sally Phelps

Seconder: The Rev'd Roger Phelps

Synod thanks Bishop-in-Council and the Ordinance Review Panel for its ongoing work on our ordinances and respectfully requests that as result of recent changes, the ministry handbook be now reviewed, updated and republished.

CARRIED

M18: Sharing Ministry Resources

Mover: The Rev'd Sally Phelps

Seconder: The Rev'd Ben Mackay

Synod requests that the registrar give consideration to establishing a working group that assists the diocesan office in expanding the resources page of our website so that there is a means by which ministers, treasurers and churchwardens can share helpful resources, contact details, grants information and relevant financial advantages gained etc, which may be of benefit to other parishes.

CARRIED

M19: Job Description for our Ministers [Withdrawn]

M20: Role description for our Members [Withdrawn]

QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN

No notices of questions were received.

MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN

Synod gave leave for the following motion to be proposed without notice.

M24: Review of WHS Responsibilities

Mover *Mr Glenn Murray*

Seconder: *The Very Rev'd James Hodson*

Synod requests that Bishop-in-Council review the responsibilities of clergy and lay members regarding WHS legislation.

CARRIED

M22: Motion of thanks re the running of Synod

Mover: *Archdeacon Andrew Thornhill*

Seconder: *Mr Bruce Henderson*

Synod expresses its gratitude to Almighty God for the way this weekend of Synod activity has gone. We are also so grateful to Bishop Richard Condie for yesterday's clergy mini-conference, Synod sermon, Bible study and the Hope25 launch; to Synod President and our Bishop, Mark Calder, for all his preparation, last night's Synod service, and an inspiring Presidential address; to Dr. Warwick Baines, Diocesan Registrar, for all his preparation; to the Dean James Hodson, the Rev'd Phil Howes and Bishop Richard Hurford for last night's cathedral service; to the Kelso parish and the catering team for nourishing us; to Archdeacon Tim St Quintin for the role he has played today as Synod chaplain; to the Rev'd Bob Cameron and Mrs Kath Thornhill as clerical and lay secretaries; to Mr Simon Miller and the Rev'd Andrew Ford from Anglicare, and the Rev'd Paul Sampson from BCA; and to all lay and clergy representatives for their preparation and participation across the weekend.

CARRIED

PRAYER

2:27pm The Synod concluded with prayers led by Lisa Milton (Clause 403), Levi Kowalczyk (Clause 319) and Johnny Lush (Oberon), a song and a benediction given by the Bishop.

ADJOURNMENT OF SYNOD

2:41pm The Synod adjourned without setting another day for meeting.

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the proceedings of the Synod.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.

Clerical Secretary of Synod

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Homblitt".

Lay Secretary of Synod

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Calid".

Signed by the President

on 17 Oct 2024