



Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



The
President's Address

*The Most Reverend Roger Herft AM
Archbishop of Perth*

*Third Session
of the Forty-Eighth Synod
of the
Diocese of Perth*

4 October 2014

Ngaala kaaditj Noongar moort keyen kaadak nidjar boodjar.

We acknowledge Noongar people as the original custodians of this land.

Welcome to this Third Session of the Forty-Eighth Synod of the Diocese of Perth in the name of God the Holy and Blessed Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Boolanga-Yira yanga-kwabba
noonooka, kolang
Maaman, wer Nop,
wer Kangya-Kooranyi. Kaya.

*The Most High God blesses
you, in the name of
the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

I acknowledge the Noongar people, the ancestral custodians of this sacred land. I pray and hope that our imprint on this fragile earth may bear the marks of reverence as we journey towards reconciliation.

This year marks the fulfilment of a long-held dream which this Synod and Diocesan Council have had the honour to support. Thanks to the provocative persistence of Nyoongar Elder, Mrs Vivianne Sahanna, the passion of Mrs Lorna Little, who died before the book was complete, and the patient work of a small band of translators assisted by the Bible Society and led by The Reverend Dr John Harris, the Gospel of St Luke, *Warda Kwabba Luke-Ang*, was launched on 31 August 2014 at St George's Cathedral.

The singing of the *Benedictus* for the first time at Evensong by the Cathedral Consort in the Nyoongar language and the ready availability of the Gospel of Luke will offer opportunities for the language to be used in parishes, schools and agencies. I hope that this translation will figure in the curriculum of our schools and in the orientation programmes of our agencies.

A Synod is a vital part of our Anglican ethos. We refer to our membership in this church as a voluntary compact, a free choice that each of us makes to live out our common discipleship in Christ within the Anglican Church. The word 'voluntary' means 'to act without compulsion, under one's own will'. Attached to its meaning is the generous self-giving which seeks neither payment nor reward. In a classical sense a voluntary association is defined in two possible ways - 'expressive' and 'instrumental'.

'Expressive' refers to those groups that pursue common leisure activities such as the home and garden brigade, photographic and jazz clubs. An 'instrumental' association acts with the purpose of effecting change; its members are committed to influencing the wider community. It promotes ideals that challenge the social construct of the day. Amnesty International and Greenpeace stand as examples of this type of voluntary association.

A church that describes its sense of belonging in either of these two interpretations of 'voluntary compact' runs the risk of its members seeing themselves as an expressive association, defined simply by a particular interest in ecclesiastical haberdashery or as an instrumental association pursuing the issues of the day and making them the sole mission imperative for the gospel.

The church shares both the expressive and instrumental aspects of a voluntary group in society. Yet its agenda and its composition are, and must always be based upon the reality of the God who chooses and sends.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

We remind ourselves at this Synod that we are bound, not by a voluntary compact (an expression of human self-will) but by our call into the mystery of God's Holy Being the Holy and Eternal Trinity.

We are part of that eternal community who praise God with the whole company of heaven singing 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' (Revelation 7:12).

In the Anglican family to which we belong this compact includes the voluntary acceptance of the fundamental declarations that form an essential part of what it is to belong.

In 1914, one hundred years ago Bishop Charles Owen Leaver Riley in addressing the Synod reminded members that they must act according to that which we all have voluntarily agreed to, to be governed by the faith and teaching of our church and its doctrine contained in the Prayer Books, in Holy Scripture, in the traditions held together by canon, rules and constitutions.

This does not mean that we are stagnant, unable to be prophetic and be engaged in change. We must be assured that when changes are made they are based upon the imperatives gleaned from a careful interpretation of scripture, a robust engagement with tradition and a holy appeal to reason. A Diocesan Synod does not stand on its own. It takes its place as a law-making body within the National Anglican Church and must be attentive to the wider role it plays as being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Community

The Synod is a gathered community which represents the church witnessing on a daily basis in many varied local contexts.

Every local community, school and agency is acting out of the eternal truth that we are a community, a body called and destined to be bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ to our broken and fragmented world. We bear the alienation and wounds of those we are called to serve. We bear them as part of the suffering of Christ.

The professional voice of caring and advocacy, excellence in compassionate service and well rounded education are hallmarks of our agencies and schools. These flagship entities had their beginnings in the hearts of ordinary Christian believers who had a deep passion to serve Christ and his Gospel. Today the agencies and schools have become highly organised, competent faith-based independently incorporated bodies that seek to fulfil God's purposes in the world.

The professional nature of these organisations the staff, budgets and programmes can leave the person in the parish feeling somewhat inadequate. The essential human voluntary compact of loving one's neighbour seems to have become a contract that is tied up with rules and regulations.

The Good Samaritan could be accused of not complying with occupational and safety guidelines as well as ignoring professional standards statutes.

The parish community offers a vital gift to the agencies and schools. A Jewish citizen of Rome in the first century was called in Greek *paroikos*. It referred to a sojourner. A person who lived in a foreign land but whose thoughts constantly were of Jerusalem. Such a state of exile, the exile of the inner mind, was called *paroikia* – from which we get the word – *parish*.

It is this divine transformative power that parish communities can offer to our schools and agencies who may lose or unwittingly compromise the faith that motivates our good works as they face the pressure of attending to the daily grind of government and other stakeholders' expectations. For this task our parishes will need to be:

. . . capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters". This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.

Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* of the Holy Father Francis
to the Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful
on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World
www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents,
12 March 2014

The incorporated bodies, schools and agencies can assist the local parish community to become more aware and attentive to the needs of its community. We can mutually benefit from each other. We are all servants of God in Christ.

Mission Plan – Daring to live God's promises

The Diocesan Mission Plan was launched at Synod in 2008:

The Mission Plan seeks to provide some structure, offer some models, encourage partnerships and enable every baptised person to be effective pray-ers, listeners, tellers, connectors. We are to be living pointers to what God has done and is doing in our midst to bring love, salvation and abundant life to us and to our world in Jesus Christ.

*Roger Herft, President's Address to the Third Session of the Forty-Sixth Synod of the Diocese of Perth,
11 October 2008*

The Diocesan Mission Plan with some changes was affirmed by the Synod in 2012.

Parishes, schools, agencies, clergy and lay leadership have sought in one way or another to be involved in the key facets of the Mission Plan:

- Creatively Listening and Telling the Good News of Jesus
- Building Vital Worshipping Communities
- Reaching Out in Loving Service
- Inspirational Leadership
- Life Giving Systems and Structures

Many parishes, schools and agencies have shaped their own strategic plans taking cognizance of the direction set by the Mission Plan.

Prayer and practical encouragement have been offered through Prayer Days and *Energise* events.

Every dream that touches the reality of the daily grind needs constant renewal.

The Good News Project is an initiative that harnesses the good will, thinking and prayer of the Diocesan Mission Plan. It seeks to engage in a mutually enhancing way with parishes, schools and agencies. Together we must rediscover the best ways in which to progress the valuable learnings from the past as we journey into the future.

My grateful thanks to Mrs Donna Shepherd for her assistance offered to us in this venture.

The exercise we will engage in at Synod marks a starting point for a further deepening of our common bonds in the mission that Christ has entrusted to us.

The Holy Spirit hovers upon expectant hearts and minds, calling forth the grace of renewal.

Refer to Appendix 1: Letter to Members of Synod 26 September 2014.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Children in Detention

The continuing political rhetoric on sovereign borders and the adverse effects this is having directly on those seeking refuge and sanctuary in our land has demeaned the soul of who we are as a nation.

Children in Detention

The leaders of our church expressed profound disquiet that there were more than 950 children detained within Australia and a further 177 detained in Nauru (refer to the Metropolitans' Statement, Appendix 2). They noted the Federal Government's insistence that boat arrivals had stopped. This claim requires closer scrutiny. The United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child, to which Australia is a signatory, notes that the detention of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time. There is considerable disquiet in the church and the wider community about the treatment meted out to people leaving desperate circumstances who are being punished by the policies adopted by the two major political parties.

On 5 August 2014 Western Australia's leading non-government care organisations offered support and housing in the community for families with infants being held in offshore detention.

Organisations including the Anglican Diocese of Perth, the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, the Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), and the Salvation Army wrote to the Minister of Immigration making this offer.

The response made by the Minister of Immigration to provide a temporary form of visa for families and children in detention centres in Australia is timely. A similar response is likely for those held in detention on Christmas Island and Nauru. The complex legalise governing the variety of visas for refugees is clearly meant to act as a deterrent. However, it gives the distinct impression that the primary response is to punish anyone who moves past the Government's 'sovereign border' line.

The proposal to use Cambodia as another place for creating an Australian detention centre borders on the irresponsible. Many of our neighbours survive in very poor conditions and are dependent on our goodwill and aid for maintaining their budgets. To demand that our poorest neighbours take on our responsibilities is deeply troubling. Australia's moral leadership in the Asia/Pacific region is under scrutiny. We will be judged as a nation that used its wealth, power and influence to exploit our poorest neighbours.

Middle East Crisis

The fact that Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world was powerfully brought to the attention of the 2013 Synod by Dr Patrick Sookhdeo. In his sweeping overview of countries and nations where Christians live in fear for their lives he warned of the ongoing target killing of Christians in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan as well as other countries, where militant religious ideologies were gaining popular support. The threats of ISIS jihadists in Syria, Iraq and similar extremist groups in parts of Africa and Asia will require a careful engagement by the Western Alliance. The co-operation of the nations that constitute the Middle East, particularly the Muslim leaders in Arab nations, must be sought in a realistic way if this diabolical movement is to be stopped.

The history of the crusades and recent other intrusions should have taught us that the use of military power can be counterproductive. Revenge, retaliation and a desire to obliterate “the enemy” makes us prisoners to a cycle of violence that becomes the norm. Killing innocent civilians is accepted as part of the conflict. No lasting peace is achieved by this methodology. Events involving the bringing down of a passenger plane and the ongoing murder of innocent civilians in the Ukraine, Gaza and other regions of our world has reminded us of the threats to the fabric of life and the “decent” society that we take for granted. We forget the truth proclaimed by Martin Luther King Jnr that a policy of an eye for eye and a tooth for tooth will make us all blind and toothless; we must learn to live together in harmony or perish together as fools. Finding another way must be our fervent prayer and desire.

The negative stereotyping of Muslims in our society and the demonising of those who belong to the Islamic religion diminishes all of us as Australians. Social cohesion does not take place through the alienation of difference but by recognising the dignity of difference. Making connections with those of other faiths is an important witness to the gospel in our times. We have a responsibility as a church to provide protection for those who are targeted.

At the international level we must lobby world leaders to act urgently to see that Christians who have lived in Iraq, Syria and other countries in the Middle East are protected from extremists. They must be able to live their lives free from persecution, torture and death. We look to the Muslim leadership around the world to condemn acts of radicalisation and to offer refuge to those affected by wanton acts of terror.

The lack of any progress on United Nations Two State Solution for Israel and Palestine is a source of anger in the Arab world. The blatant non-compliance with United Nations resolutions concerning occupation, settlements and land acquisition by Israel add to the litany of grievances in the region. The lack of leadership by the United Nations Security Council, including Australia, to bring a just resolution to this conflict is a matter of deep regret. Civilised societies live by the dictum that ‘justice delayed is justice denied’.

Centenary of World War I

This year marks the centenary of the First World War. In May this year it was an honour to journey to Gallipoli; a place that bears a deep sense of reverence for Australians and New Zealanders in particular. ANZAC Cove is a pebbly beach with a rugged steep climb – the waters lap gently, the poppies sway in the breeze, the scene is one of idyllic charm with grass, trees and shrubs providing a cover for the death and destruction that erupted in this place 100 years ago. Shells and bullets can still be dug up from the earth.

There is an intimacy about the place. I had envisaged a vast expanse of ocean and an extensive battle field stretching for miles. The arena of actual combat is cramped and the intensity of the engagement becomes horribly clear.

The hand-to-hand, face-to-face battles would have had an immediacy about them that must have torn the human spirit even as bodies were ripped apart. Little wonder that those who return from war are silent – the wounds are too deep to be spoken about.

There was no escaping the intense ferocity of what took place – the trenches, the Turkish flags indicating unmarked mass graves and the grave stones and monuments etched with names, ages and epitaphs have the power a hundred years on to evoke grief and anger at the sacrifice of young lives.

One hundred years on the ancient words of the Ode of Remembrance ring out:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

We give particular thanks to members of the Defence Force, chaplains and all who serve to keep the embers of human dignity alive through dedicated service and self-sacrifice.

May each of us continue to be the peace we pray for.

The Environment

It is evident that the lifestyle of human beings on this fragile planet has seriously affected the delicate eco-balance for mother earth to breathe. Creating awareness of this serious crisis through debating motions at Synod has a place. Practical action becomes paramount. In this respect I commend our agencies, schools and parishes who have shown ecological responsibility in recent building programmes.

His all Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, often referred to as the “green Pope”, rightly observes that the environmental crisis is a spiritual crisis.

We are treating our planet in an inhuman, godless manner precisely because we fail to see it as a gift inherited from above. Before we can effectively deal with problems of our environment, we must change the way we perceive the world. Otherwise, we are simply dealing with symptoms, not with their causes. We require a new worldview if we are to desire “a new earth” (Rev 21:1).

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, *Encountering the Mystery*, Doubleday, New York, 2008, pp117-18

He reminds further that this crisis is not one that can be responded to only by governments and international agencies:

Each believer and each leader, each field and each discipline, each institution and each individual must be touched to change our greedy ways and destructive habits ... each of us must be accountable for our slightest gesture and act in order to reverse the path that we are on. Unless we change the way we live we cannot hope to avoid ecological damage.

Message to the Interfaith Summit on Climate Change – UN 21-22 September 2014

Thank you

On behalf of the synod, I extend our thanks to the Principal, Ms Belinda Provis, and Mr Peter Gow and the All Saints’ College Council for hosting Synod again this year.

Thank you to the Chaplains at the Eucharist and at Synod, The Reverends Galal Bashir and Debora Spencer, for their prayerful attentiveness.

Thanks to the Cathedral, the Acting Dean, Precentor, Director of Music, Assistant Organist and choir, for keeping us mindful of worshipping God in the beauty of holiness.

We welcome The Reverend John Deane, Executive Director of the Anglican Board of Mission, to this Synod and thank him for preaching at the Synod Eucharist and leading this morning’s Bible Study.

Welcome¹

We welcome all those for whom this is their first synod, particularly those clergy who have joined us from overseas, from other dioceses in Australia, and those recently ordained:

The Reverend Patrick Duckworth

The Very Reverend David Richardson OBE

The Reverend Ros Fairless

The Reverend Sebastiana Pienaar

¹ For all Moves and Other Appointments from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014 refer Appendix 3

We also acknowledge those who have taken up diocesan appointments over the past year:

Mr John Berger	Chief Executive Officer, St Bartholomew's House
Mr Michael Brown	Chair, St Bartholomew's House
Mr John Poynton	Chair, Christ Church Grammar School
Mr Adrian Pree	Principal, St James' Anglican School, Alkimos
Mr Nic Templeman	Archbishop's Examining Chaplain

In Memoriam

We remember all who have served Christ in faithful endeavour in our parishes, schools and agencies:

Mrs Teresa Thursby-Pelham, widow of the late The Reverend John Thursby-Pelham
Mrs Jane Weare, widow of the late The Reverend Vincent Weare
The Venerable Norman Apthorp
Mrs Elly Jamieson
The Reverend James Blades
The Reverend Barry Skellett
The Reverend Michael Rowdon
Lady Dell Cornish-Grindrod
Mrs Kath Edwards, widow of the late The Reverend Canon Ron Edwards
The Reverend Terry Ranson
The Reverend Elizabeth Couche
Deaconess Margaret Rodgers
The Right Reverend John McIntyre, Bishop of Gippsland
The Reverend Cec Hodgson
Mrs Laurel Muston, wife of The Right Reverend Ged Muston
Mrs Norah Pickerill, widow of the late The Reverend Jack Pickerill

They greet the Risen Christ in accents clearer than our own for they have seen him face to face.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Farewell

Clergy Retirements

The Reverend Julie Barrett-Lennard
The Reverend Canon Dennis Claughton
The Reverend Jim Crawley
The Reverend Peter Llewellyn
The Reverend Terry McAuliffe
The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd
The Reverend Christine Simes

We give thanks to God for faithful ministries offered by all these priests who have served Christ in this church with patience and fortitude.

Retirements and Resignations from Diocesan Positions

Mr Andrew Birch	Chair, St Bartholomew's House
Mr Alan Cadby	Chair and Member, St Mark's Anglican Community School Council
Ms Pam D'Rozario	Examining Chaplain
Mr David Fardon	Chair, Christ Church Grammar School
Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie	Examining Chaplain
Mrs Cheryl Herft	Editor, <i>Anglican Messenger</i>

I express on behalf of the diocese our deep appreciation to all who have given their gifts in the service of our diocese, and wish those who are retiring all the best in their future endeavours.

Thank you

I am grateful to all who serve God in Christ in agencies, schools and parishes across the diocese. Faithfulness in worship and witness, in prayer and service, in engaging with the community has a cost attached to it.

The reports to synod represent the faithful ministry of countless people who serve as Trustees, Diocesan Council members, in parishes, schools, agencies, universities, prisons, hospitals and many others who engage with the mission and ministry of this diocese.

Trustees and Diocesan Council

Under the able leadership of the Chairman of Trustees, The Hon Richard Court AC, the Trustees have continued to see that the resources of the diocese found in trusts and investments are diligently managed and are used to benefit the church in the diocese and province now and into the future.

The Diocesan Council report outlines the onerous task of those who seek to fulfil the Synod's determinations with care and diligence.

The Assistant Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans work with a spirit of co-operation and collaboration to serve the ministry at the parish, local and deanery level.

Chancellors

The Honourable Justice Graeme Murphy, Chancellor, and Mr Peter Jooste QC and Mr Eric Ross-Adjie as deputies serve the Episcopate with quiet, faithful diligence.

Allied Ministries

We are grateful for the diligence and expertise of all those involved in the life and mission of our agencies and schools, particularly the Chairs, Chief Executive Officers, boards and staff. We give thanks for the contributions made by all members of boards who serve in allied ministries.

Chaplaincies in hospitals, schools, agencies, prisons including chaplaincy in public schools are a source of great encouragement and provide care for many.

Amana Living

Chair	Mr Steve Scudamore
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Ray Glickman

Anglican Community Fund

Chair	Mr David Craig
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Jeff Vance

The Anglican Community Fund under the leadership of Mr David Craig and Mr Jeff Vance offers the diocese, parishes and agencies a friendly and genuine service. This fund has contributed \$11 million to the diocese and to relevant agencies over the past ten years.

Anglicare WA

Chair	Mr John Barrington
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Ian Carter AM

Meath Care

Chair	Mr Michael Lee OAM
Chief Executive Officer	Mrs Olive Wright

Parkerville Children and Youth Care

Chair	The Right Reverend Tom Wilmot
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Basil Hanna

St Bartholomew's House

Chair	Mr Michael Brown
Chief Executive Officer	Mr John Berger

St George's College

Chair Dr Peter Hopwood
Warden Mr Ian Hardy

As part of the University of Western Australia's centenary celebrations St George's College hosted a Eucharist and Lecture, given by The Reverend Professor Rowan Strong, during which the place of Archbishop Riley in the life of the university was a feature. St George's College has been gifted with \$15 million to provide a residential facility for students within the University of Western Australia.

Anglican Schools Commission

Chair Mrs Barbara Godwin OAM
Chief Executive Officer The Reverend Peter Laurence

Perth hosted the Anglican Schools' Association Conference from 8-9 August this year on the topic *Mining the Soul*. Dr Paula Gooder was the keynote speaker.

All Saints' College

Chair Mr Peter Gow
Principal Ms Belinda Provis

Christ Church Grammar School

Chair Mr John Poynton
Headmaster Mr Garth Wynne

Esperance Anglican Community School

Chair Mr Peter Mead
Principal Mr Kerr Fulton-Peebles

Guildford Grammar School

Chair Mr Michael Abbott
Headmaster Mr Stephen Webber

On Tuesday 25 March 2014 Guildford Grammar School celebrated the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Chapel of St Mary and St George with a Eucharist and Concert. Both events acknowledged the importance of the Chapel in the life of the school. A special mass setting was commissioned for the centenary.

Hale School

Chair Mr Jon Birman
Headmaster Mr Stuart Meade

John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School

Chair Dr Ken Evans
Principal Mr Matthew Hughes

John Wollaston Anglican Community School

Chair Mr Craig Bydder
Principal Ms Anne Ford

Perth College

Chair Mr Grant Vernon
Principal Mrs Jenny Ethell

Peter Carnley Anglican Community School

Chair Mr Keith Lindbeck
Principal Mr Peter Martin

Peter Moyes Anglican Community School

Chair Dr Patricia Williams
Principal Mr Julian Dowse

St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls

Chair Ms Deidre Willmott
Principal Mrs Joy Shepherd

St James' Anglican School

Chair The Reverend Peter Laurence
Principal Mr Adrian Pree

The site of St James' Anglican School was blessed and the Foundation Principal commissioned on Thursday 20 February 2014.

St Mark's Anglican Community School

Chair Mr Andrew Burgess
Principal Mr Cameron Herbert

St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

Chair Mr Ian Curlewis
Principal Mrs Lynne Thomson

Swan Valley Anglican Community School

Chair Mr Doug Swingler
Principal Mr Jason Bartell

Flying Angel Club - Mission to Seafarers

Chair The Reverend Canon Dennis Cloughton

Anglican Board of Mission

Chair The Venerable Lionel Snell

Bush Church Aid Society

Chair Mr Stephen Gwilt
WA Regional Officer The Reverend Rob Healy

Church Missionary Society

Chair Mr Khim Harris
General Secretary The Reverend Canon Ray Arthur

Anglican Messenger

Editors The Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy
The Reverend Dr Elizabeth Smith
Advertising Manager Mrs Chris Davies

Mrs Cheryl Herft resigned from her position as Editor of the *Anglican Messenger*. Thrust into this world in October 2007 Cheryl has assisted the diocese in making the *Messenger* an outstanding magazine of theological depth. She has engaged with theologians from various traditions to contribute in healthy dialogue.

Mission Plan

Thanks to The Reverend Dr Elizabeth Smith, The Reverend Alison Gilchrist, Mr Bruce Houston and many others who enable and encourage the work of mission at a local level. The Mission Plan Oversight Group has sought to offer encouragement and assistance to the key personnel. Mission Prayer Days and the Mission Conference have provided opportunities for involvement and learning.

Diocesan Office

Those who serve in the campuses in Perth, Wollaston and Swanleigh seek to provide a ministry of service to clergy, parishes and agencies. Thanks to Mr Brian Dixon, Ms Ann Witt, Mr Alan Gray and Ms Helen Forsythe; Mr Hamish Milne, Mrs Trudi Baker-Flach and Mrs Victoria McDowell; and Mr Ian Ludlow, Mrs Kirsty Bradbury and Mrs Maria Hann, and the people who support them in their endeavour on our behalf.

Synod Co-ordinators

Mr Hamish Milne, Mrs Trudi Baker-Flach and Mrs Maria Hann deserve our gratitude for the diligent way in which they plan and provide for us at Synod.

The Episcopate

The appointment of The Reverend Canon Jeremy James as Assistant Bishop in the diocese was met with unanimous joy. The consecration in the Cathedral was a powerful symbol of Diocesan life. The participation of so many diverse groups was a beautiful expression of ecumenical endeavour in its widest sense. The Reverend Canon Kate Wilmot's sermon provided inspiration and much food for thought.

Bishop Tom and Bishop Kay have continued to serve in the local contexts. The change of areas will assist the agencies and schools link directly with the Assistant Bishops through a more focussed local engagement.

Bishop Tom Wilmot in his report to synod has outlined the work done by Anglican EcoCare and the national body that has become a part of the Public Affairs Commission. I am grateful for Bishop Tom's enthusiastic commitment to this important work.

The General Synod of the Church of England finally agreed to the measure that will see women ordained to the Episcopate. Bishop Kay responded to requests from the Church of England re the role and formation of women. Several key women leaders from the United Kingdom will be in the diocese over the coming year 'shadowing' Bishop Kay in her episcopal role.

Bishop Brian Kyme and Bishop David Murray assist the Episcopate with their particular gifts in education and spiritual direction.

I am grateful to Mrs Susan Harvey and her team consisting of Mrs Fay Scarfone, Mrs Melanie Hare and Ms Nina Biggs for their willing assistance offered to the episcopate and the diocese.

Oversight

Following Bishop Jeremy's consecration on 6 August changes were made in respect to the episcopal oversight of the diocese. An overview of the new oversight structure follows:

Archbishop

Sudanese Communities
Household of Deacons

Archdeacon: The Venerable Trevor Burt
Archdeacon: The Venerable Braden Short

North – Bishop Tom Wilmot

North Archdeaconry
Deaneries

Archdeacon: The Venerable Braden Short
Claremont, Coastal, Gnangara, Joondalup
and associated Allied Ministries

South – Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

Perth/South Archdeaconry
Deaneries

Archdeacon: The Venerable Lionel Snell
Cockburn, Melville, Perth, Victoria Park
and associated Allied Ministries

East – Bishop Jeremy James

East Archdeaconry
Deaneries
Armadale Deanery
Swan & Goldfields* Deaneries

Archdeacon: The Venerable Peter Bourne
Avon, Goldfields*, Merredin, Moore
Archdeacon: The Venerable Lionel Snell
Archdeacon: The Venerable Braden Short
and associated Allied Ministries

A more detailed document is available on the diocesan and Archbishop's websites.

Archbishop's Website www.archbishopofperth.org

I encourage a perusal of this website. Of particular interest is the "Opinions" flipbook.

Pastoral Handbook Vade mecum

I am pleased to report that after many years, a gestation period of over 20 years, a revised Pastoral Handbook, now to be known as *Vade mecum: The Authorised Ministry Handbook of the Diocese of Perth* is available online. This resource is primarily designed to be used as companion resource for the clergy of the diocese.

Challenges facing rural and urban church communities

We give thanks to faithful clergy and lay leaders for their courage and witness in the face of continuing challenges.

The full-time parish priest responsible for small yet vibrant country towns is largely a thing of the past. Farming communities have had to change in order to deal with market forces and with competition from world markets. The growing technology has reduced the need for farmhands. Communities have grown smaller and the service components of schools, banks, medical personnel have had to re-think how they serve the changed population.

The church has sought to respond to these challenges by experimenting with several models:

- The Ministering Communities model where local leaders are ordained and trained to provide the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Given the declining nature of local communities this response has not brought the next generation of leaders.
- The ecumenical model where covenants are entered into with other churches to enable joint ministries to be offered.
- The hub model where a particular town is identified as a centre and ordained ministry fantails from that place into the wider and remote places.

In the midst of the growing urbanisation it has become a challenge to convince newly ordained clergy to take up positions in the country. Spouses' work commitments and schooling for children adds to this challenge. The ability of regional communities to provide a stipend has become difficult. The growing indifference to make any strong commitment to the church and to ministry has had an effect on both the urban and the rural sectors.

In the urban context parishes are finding it more difficult to provide fulltime stipendiary ministry. The cost of maintenance and insurance as well as the requirements in respect of occupational health and safety places an immense burden on wardens and parish councils. There is a growing need for partnerships to be built across parish boundaries. The enabling of leadership of both lay and ordained in rural and urban areas is vital if we are to provide the bush and the city with vibrant models for the future.

Bishop Jeremy James has taken on the responsibility of oversight for the rural and regional areas of the diocese and is ably assisted by Archdeacon Peter Bourne and the faithful clergy and lay people in this vast region.

Bishops Kay Goldsworthy and Tom Wilmot in their respective reports provide us with an insight into what is taking place as well as the potential for renewal.

Theological Education and Formation *Warden of the Wollaston Theological College*

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach, who is currently The Dean of Clare College in the University of Cambridge, has accepted appointment as Warden of the Wollaston Theological College from 1 January 2015.

The Board of the John Wollaston Theological College under the chairmanship of The Reverend Dr Philip Raymont has sought to fulfil the brief given to them to provide for theological education and formation for lay and clergy.

Our thanks to Mr Hamish Milne, Director of Education, The Reverend Peter Llewellyn, Acting Dean of Ministry, and The Reverend and Dean Spalding, Dean of Studies together with the lecturers at Murdoch University, Professor Rowan Strong, The Reverend Dr Jim Trotter and Dr Jeremy Hultin, for the contribution made.

The Examining Chaplains under the leadership of The Reverend Dr Philip Raymond plays a pivotal role in the process of discernment of candidates for selection, training and recommendation for ordination. This year has seen the resignations of Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie and Ms Pamela D'Rozario who have faithfully served as Examining Chaplains for many years, and The Reverend Andrew Williams. The Reverend Pamela Turner and Mr Nic Templeman have been appointed.

Cathedral

A farewell Evensong for The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd took place on Sunday 27 July 2014 in the Cathedral. At the last meeting of Diocesan Council the following resolution in appreciation of John's ministry in the diocese was noted:

This Diocesan Council acknowledges the significant contribution made by The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd, Dean of Perth, to the Diocesan Council since 1990 and sincerely thanks him for the way he has brought reason and humour to its deliberations.

During the meeting Dr Ken Evans advised that John was the longest serving current member of the Diocesan Council and must have attended in excess of 200 meetings. Dr Evans observed that the Dean had not only been a voice of reason on many occasions during his time on Diocesan Council but had also injected humour on many occasions.

This Synod will have a further opportunity to thank John for his contribution to the life of the diocese. Synod will also have opportunity to thank Joy Shepherd for her leadership at St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls since 1998 and for her contribution to education over a lifetime of service.

The Very Reverend David Richardson OBE took up appointment as Acting Dean of Perth on 1 August 2014. David served as Dean of Adelaide, Dean of Melbourne, and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Thanks to the Dean, The Reverend Graeme Napier, The Reverend Rae Reinertsen, and the many clergy who assist and to the staff of the Cathedral Office, together with Bishops Brian Kyme and David Murray for their contribution to the life of the Cathedral.

The Cathedral as the Mother Church of the diocese provides generous hospitality for diocesan events such as ordinations and synod.

We are blessed with a fine music tradition that is enhanced by the ministry of Mr Joseph Nolan, the choirs, organists and many others who make the Cathedral a vibrant worshipping community open to one and all.

Social Justice

Social Responsibilities Commission and Anglican EcoCare Commission

The report for the Social Responsibilities Commission highlights key areas in which advocacy and advice have been provided, including restorative justice, refugees and asylum seekers, aboriginal rights and poverty. The Anglican EcoCare Commission is to be commended for its ongoing commitment to the many challenges that face our community.

I am grateful to The Reverend Lorna Green and members of the Social Responsibilities Commission for their attentive engagement with these matters. The contribution of Ms Claire Barrett-Lennard to the Social Responsibilities Commission and the Anglican EcoCare Commission is deeply appreciated.

Prison Chaplaincy

Meetings with chaplains, the Catholic Archbishop and Uniting Church Moderator have been held to consider several areas of concern such as the effect of overcrowding on the corrective services agenda. The Department of Corrective Services fulfils its obligations by:

- providing offender management services that protect the community
- giving offenders the interventions they need to make a positive difference in their lives and reduce their involvement in the criminal justice system
- supporting offenders to become responsible citizens by adopting law-abiding lifestyles
- promoting crime prevention.

Meetings with chaplains and the Attorney General and Minister have enabled some good discussion and some practical responses. The Commission of Corrective Services has agreed to meet with the chaplains to further look at how chaplaincy could be better used within the department.

Our thanks to all those who minister in prisons. One of the key areas of concern raised with the State Government is the number of people with mental health issues that are in our prison system.

Mental Health

Mental Health Week from 5-12 October 2014 is an opportunity for all of us to become aware of the importance of maintain and nourishing the mental health of one and all. The ABC is seeking to draw attention to the issue of mental health and its impact on Australians during Mental Health Week. Under the banner '*ABC Mental As*', the Corporation will focus the week's programming and discussion on mental illness, and health and wellbeing in Australia.

Anglican Children and Youth Ministries

I am grateful for the leadership provided by The Reverend Jeff Savage, Mrs Ellie Macpherson and The Reverend Onesimo Yugusuk who offer enthusiastic support to the Anglican Children and Youth Ministries' initiatives. A healthy rapport with the Anglican Schools Commission provides for a mutually enriching partnership as young people and learning communities are brought to deeper faith.

The Anglican Schools Commission

Under the leadership of Mrs Barbara Godwin OAM and The Reverend Peter Laurence the Western Australian Anglican Schools Association launched the new Religious Education Curriculum. The news that there will be another school at Alkimos is to be greeted warmly. A school learning environment offers an opportunity over several years for the Christian faith to be caught and taught.

On 1 September 2014 the Anglican Schools Commission announced the acquisition of three schools, two in Victoria and one to be housed in the Perth CBD.

The ReachOut pilgrimages led by The Reverend David Lord and Mrs Lyn Lord are a service learning component with a strong Christian mission focus which makes a difference in the life and witness of young people.

Passion of Christ 2014

Over 4,000 attended the two performances of the *Passion of Christ* in the grounds of Government House on 12 and 13 April 2014. I acknowledge the contribution and commitment of all those who so willingly contributed in the production: the professional actors and youth actors, technicians, musicians, the media, playwright Tony Nicholls, ushers, production associates, Mr Rick Ardon, His Excellency the Governor, Malcolm McCusker, and Mrs McCusker, Channel 7, *The West Australian*, Premier's Department, Government of Western Australia and the Perth City Council.

The Anglican Covenant

General Synod Resolution 27B/14: Anglican Communion Covenant

Archbishop Jeffrey Driver moved, The Hon Robert Fordham AM seconded,

That this General Synod:

- 1 affirms the commitment of the Anglican Church of Australia to the Anglican Communion;
- 2 affirms its openness to participating in any further consideration of a covenant proposal; and
- 3 urges upon the Instruments of Communion a course of action that continues to see reconciliation and the preservation of the Communion as a family of interdependent but autonomous churches.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is seeking to proceed to engage with the Communion by meeting individually with the Primates of every Province to ascertain from them the best way forward for interaction.

It would appear that there is a desire for more regional gatherings and conferences to engage with the context of the local areas and to provide opportunities for mission initiatives to be shared at a wider level.

Companion Diocese – Eldoret

Last year Synod entered into an historic companion link with the Diocese of Eldoret and with the St Paul's Theological College. The resolution of Synod 2013 read:

41/13 Partnership in Mission

The Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy moved, The Reverend Angela Webb seconded, that this Synod:

welcomes Bishop Christopher Kiprugut Rutto, Mrs Miriam Jepkemboi (Rutto), their daughter Deborah Jepkosgei and members of the Diocese of Eldoret: The Venerable Jotham Chege Mureu, The Reverend Evelyn Jerotich Mulwo, The Reverend Wilson Kimisik Lagat; and

- 1 affirms the Partnership in Mission Companion Diocese relationship initiated by Synod in 2012;
- 2 recognises ABM's support of this partnership;
- 3 gives thanks to God for the Companion Diocese Covenant Agreement between the Diocese of Perth and the Diocese of Eldoret, being affirmed by Archbishop Roger, Bishop Christopher and members of our two Dioceses to walk together in the mission of Christ, committing ourselves to mutual prayer and concern; and
- 4 asks that this Covenant be reviewed at Synod 2014 with a view to continuing for a further three years.

The President and Bishop Christopher Rutto executed the Companion Diocese Covenant Agreement between the Diocese of Perth and the Diocese of Eldoret.

The *Prayer Diary* now includes prayers for the parishes, clergy, leaders and Bishops in Eldoret. A joint programme with ABM is ready to go. The next stage is for a group from the Diocese of Perth to visit Eldoret and to encourage pilgrimages to be arranged between the dioceses.

Diocesan Office Building: Church House

The design of the Diocesan Office to be built on the former Playhouse site has been accepted. It is hoped that relocation can take place in mid-2016. Many parishes have benefitted from the entrepreneurial leadership from the Diocesan Project Manager, Mr Alan Gray, with land being utilised to free up the assets for the use of the mission of the church.

The Hale Diaries

The diaries were lent to the State Library of Western Australia in November 2013. All the diaries have now been digitised. Professor Geoffrey Bolton is co-ordinating the transcription. We are grateful to Mr Patrick Bunbury who has volunteered to transcribe the diaries. Five diaries (1856, 1857, 1861, 1862, 1863) are completed with 10 still remaining. It has been reported that the existing transcript made by Canon Burton which is held by the State Library is incomplete when compared to the originals. The current comprehensive transcribing will complete the historical record.

The Pastoral Staffs of Bishop Riley

Two croziers used by Bishop Riley have recently been painstakingly and beautifully restored. I am grateful to Messrs Alan Linney, David Fardon, Juan Bachiller and Ben Flood of Linneys for the excellent restoration work. Mr Doug Dawes of Kalgoorlie gifted 18 gold nuggets to match the original nine on the Kalgoorlie staff. The relevant information on both croziers can be found in Appendix 4.

The Province

The Diocese of North West Australia

Bishop Gary Nelson has faced the challenges of covering great distances and seeking personnel to serve in the bush and in mining towns with prayerful diligence. He is focussed on bringing his considerable gifts in church planting to the diocese and the Bishops have requested Bishop Gary to assist us in this mission activity.

The Diocese of Bunbury

Bishop Allan Ewing is looking at providing a different model of ministry in small rural communities. He is concerned that the requirements of the diocese to have a particular form of structure in some parishes, like councils, wardens, treasurers, etc may stifle the relationships and distract from local mission.

Provincial Opportunities

There are always opportunities for us as a province to work more collaboratively together. The Provincial Council has made amendments to a number of Canons and the Constitution. The Diocese of Perth will prepare updated, electronic and hard-copy editions of the Canons and an index for inclusion in the Green Book as well as the Code of Statutes of the Diocese of Perth. We are deeply grateful to Mrs Carine Collins for the work she has undertaken in the updating of the Provincial Canons and Constitution.

2014 marks the centenary of the formation of the Province of Western Australia. Bishop Riley in his Charge to the Second Session of the Fifteenth Synod of the Diocese of Perth on 13 October 1914 notes:

The events connected with the formation of the Province are all within your recent recollection. At every Synod for years we have been talking about the development of the organisation of the Church in Western Australia and the necessity of founding new Sees. In the providence of God I have been permitted to see the completion of this work, and I suppose it is given to few men to see the accomplishment of such a work as this. We have now a Province consisting of three dioceses—Perth, Bunbury, and Kalgoorlie—and I do hope that the one other event, which will make the Province conterminous with the State, and so equal to the original Diocese of Perth, viz, the inclusion, of the Diocese of the Nor'West, will be brought about when General Synod next meets.

The National Church

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall relinquished office as Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia on 4 July 2014. Archbishop Philip Freier was elected to succeed Archbishop Phillip. The Inauguration of Archbishop Freier as Primate was held in Melbourne on Wednesday 13 August at which the Archbishop of Canterbury preached.

The consecration of The Reverend Rob Gillion as Bishop of Riverina took place in Griffith on Friday 15 August.

General Synod met at St Peter's College, Adelaide, from 29 June to 3 July 2014. The legislation passed by the General Synod will come before our Synod. The main issues discussed at General Synod were Professional Standards, Model Episcopal Ordinance, proposed amendment to the Canon on marriage, the Anglican Covenant and other issues, as well as group discussions on the various taskforce reports on mission/evangelism/ministry, the viability of structures, and the unity of the Anglican Church in Australia.

Ecumenical – Interfaith Challenges

Heads of Churches

The Western Australian Heads of Churches work well in engaging with the State Government on matters of social concern. Homelessness, violence, drug rehabilitation, overcrowding in prisons have been the subject of discussion within regular meetings with the Premier.

Mar Thoma Church, Perth

The Reverend Mothy Varkey relinquished his duties as Chaplain to Murdoch University in May 2014 to take up a full-time appointment as Vicar to the Mar Thoma community in Perth. The local Mar Thoma committee has taken on responsibility for all aspects relating to the Vicar's ministry. The Mar Thoma Church and the diocese will continue the relationship with the Mar Thoma community nurtured during Mothy's tenure at Murdoch University.

Professional Standards

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

There are several learnings and actions that arise as a consequence of the particular scrutiny offered by the Royal Commission.

The evidence given before the Royal Commission meeting in Perth by the victims of child abuse perpetrated in institutions run by the churches and agencies has left us all dismayed. The pain, trauma, anguish and ongoing effects of the abuse are there for all to see. The public airing of the agony suffered triggers many emotions.

I have written to advise people throughout the diocese that should they have any information concerning current or historic matters of child sexual abuse and related matters, including unlawful or improper treatment of children that is, either generally or in any particular instance, connected or associated with child sexual abuse, they should be encouraged to make contact with Ms Tracie Chambers-Clark, Director of Professional Standards.

I am grateful to Mr John Hedges, the Professional Standards Committee, and Ms Tracie Chambers-Clark, Director of Professional Standards, and members of the Professional Standards Unit and its attendant boards and other entities for their diligent leadership in keeping us attentive to creating safe environments for children and adults alike.

The Royal Commission has given us an opportunity to consider some of the complex issues concerning the relationship between an independent incorporated body and the diocese. Constitutionally the diocese is responsible for the majority of appointments to these bodies and the Visitor is given special responsibilities.

Changing the statute concerning the definition of church worker; and the legislative aspects in respect to the reconstitution of the Professional Standards Unit to allow for the relationship between independent incorporated bodies and the diocese to function in a way that assists those who have been affected by improper and abusive behaviour in the past is under review. The independent review undertaken by Dr Barbara Meddin and by Ms Gail Archer SC will require changes in respect of the membership of the Professional Standards Unit as well as the Panel of Assessment.

We await the preliminary recommendations of the Royal Commission and welcome the opportunity to take steps to make our churches, schools and agencies safer.

The Royal Commission has raised other concerns including:

- a The need for diocesan authorities to follow through on deposition from Holy Orders of those convicted of criminal charges.
- b A thorough compliance regime that regularly allows for child protection matters to be addressed.
- c Reparation and the place of psychological assessment, caps on payments, schedules, etc.

While documents and protocols are important, education and awareness that prevents abuse taking place is essential. In this respect the Royal Commission has already highlighted the lack of understanding in the church, schools, agencies and society in general regarding “grooming behaviour”.

I am able to report to Synod that we now have in place an agreed protocol between the Archbishop of Perth and every one of our schools and agencies.

Punitive responses in themselves will not make the community safe. The Christian ideal of the restoration of even the vilest sinner must be held sacred for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Human Sexuality

As a consequence of the Human Sexuality motion raised at Synod in 2012 and 2013 and my dissenting to the motion, the Provincial Council was called to a special meeting on 14 November 2013. This is the first time in the history of the Diocese of Perth that the Provincial Council was summoned to make a determination on a motion in which there was disagreement between the lay and clerical members of Synod and the Archbishop. The mover and seconder were invited to address the Provincial Council but they declined.

The Provincial Council determined:

The Provincial Council motion:

To adopt the following resolution brought to Provincial Council by the Diocese of Perth for a determination subsequent to the Archbishop of Perth dissenting to this resolution:

That this Synod:

- 1 recognises diversity within the Diocese of Perth, both in our sexual identities and in our theologies of human sexuality;
- 2 notes the support from many within the Anglican Church for committed same-sex couples being able to register their relationship as 'civil unions' in Australia; and
- 3 acknowledges that legal recognition of committed same-sex relationships may coexist with legal recognition of marriage between a man and a woman.

was lost unanimously in each of the houses of Laity, Clergy and Bishops pursuant to a vote under section 11(6) of The Constitution Act of the Diocese of Perth 1871.

The Provincial Council's determination on this matter was made known to all members of the Synod.

Neither of the Synods of 2013 or this Synod has received a formal record of the President of Synod's correspondence dated 1 November 2012 and 28 October 2013. To complete these records I officially table the letters sent to members of Synod to form a part of the deliberations and determinations on this matter (Appendices 5 and 6).

At the end of the day while advice is provided by the Chancellor and others assisting, the responsibility for my dissent from the decision made by two-thirds of the Houses of Clergy and Laity was mine alone.

I am bound to keep the Constitution, Statutes and Regulations of the Anglican Church of Australia. I may disagree with them, as I did openly in the 1998 Lambeth resolution and the 2004 resolution of General Synod, on issues pertaining to human sexuality. In our polity changes to the Constitution, Canons and Ruling Principles of our church can only be made by the decision of the General Synod of our church or by the ruling made by a Tribunal.

Conclusion

Anglicans have viewed the voluntary compact with the church in a fluid way. They have also viewed the episcopate with the hermeneutic of suspicion. Anglicans are not disciples of Ignatius of Antioch who in 107AD said that "the bishop in each church presides in place of God!" Synods and Councils have a history of conflict and sharp division. As Gregory of Nazianzus remarked:

Synods and councils I salute from a distance, for I know how troublesome they are. Never again will I sit in those gatherings of cranes and geese.

Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church*, Penguin Books, London, 1997, p35

And, by the way, this comment was a reference to those who agreed to his point of view. One hesitates to think what he may have said about those opposed to his theological stance. Whatever we may think of bishops and synods the truth about the Christian community is that we cannot turn our faces away from each other without effectively turning our face away from Christ.

Christ is the means of grace and the hope of glory. Our primary voluntary compact is with the Christ “who while we were still sinners died for us”.

Maintaining unity requires constant attention and zealous effort since there are many powers working against it and sinful human desires and behaviors disrupting it. To continue participating in God's *shalom* demands the commitment of the whole community — all of us caring about it together, reconciling with each other, watching over one another, exhorting each other, being committed to one another over the long haul.

Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*, Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Co, Michigan, 2000, pp230-32

We arrive at the Third Session of the Forty Eighth Synod of the Diocese of Perth on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Francis saw a vision of a broken house and our Lord pleading with him “Francis repair my church”. Francis discovered that the house he was called to repair was not only the church but the whole of creation. The repairing began with Francis needing to become a humble pilgrim.

The Right Reverend Suheil Dawani, Bishop of Jerusalem, the birth place of Christianity and the location of the first Synod of the Christian church, said:

All Christians must come here first and foremost as pilgrims. Pilgrims here do not bring decisions with them. They come here to seek prayerfully the decisions God wants them to make. And God will always surprise us. God has not finished with us or with our Church yet. God the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth, and we who come here as pilgrims must be open to the Spirit's leading, open to God's surprising revelation to us.

Thankfully the one constant in our pilgrimage is the One who promises that he will be with us to the end of time. He shows us the wounds on his hands and his side. He dares us to live in the power of his woundedness. By his healing spirit the whole of creation bears the promise of the shalom of God.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

**The Most Reverend Roger Herft AM
Archbishop of Perth**

Appendix I

Copy of text of Good News Project letter to Members of Synod - 2014

Ref: 1795-0914-S36

26 September 2014

CIRCULAR: All Members of Synod

By email

Dear Sisters and Brothers

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Good News Project

The Mission Plan *Daring to live God's promises* was launched in 2008 and reaffirmed at Synod 2012. With the proposed launch of ***The Good News Project*** we pray that the work of the Mission Plan will be further enhanced.

At the beginning of Synod this year Bishops Tom, Kay and Jeremy will help us to share with each other the gospel at work in our lives. Please bring to Synod a good news story or two, and a photograph, card, synopsis or something to represent the ways you see God in Christ at work in the world, the church, your own life, your parish, school or agency.

We have much for which to be thankful and much to be challenged by. I encourage all of us to get involved

- by coming to this Synod with expectation to be surprised by the Holy Spirit;
- in praying for the whole Diocese and in praying for each other;
- in building on the good news stories you will share this Synod weekend;
- in discovering new ways of creatively listening and telling the "good news".

The good news of the saving act of God in Christ, his birth, ministry, teaching, his death, resurrection and ascension remain at the heart of our faith. God's reconciling work continues throughout this diocese as people hear the good news, engage with it and are transformed by it.

The Gospel of Mark invites us to be "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).

With blessings and prayers

Yours sincerely

Archbishop

COPY

11 April 2014

Australia's Anglican Archbishops express 'profound disquiet' about children held in detention this Easter

As leaders of the Anglican Church of Australia we wish to put on record our profound disquiet that at the end of February this year there were more than 950 children in detention facilities and alternative places of detention in Australia, and a further 177 children in offshore detention in Nauru. The average time people spend in detention is more than eight months.

While our Federal Government has been drawing attention to the number of days without boat arrivals, this is another set of numbers that needs close scrutiny. These children are innocent victims of tragic circumstances. To use the words of the UN Charter on the rights of the child, detention of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate time.

As church leaders, we are not seeking to express a party political opinion on this matter. Within our church there is grave disquiet about the asylum seeker policies of both major parties.

It is our view that those who flee from desperate circumstances by boat should not be punished by prolonged detention whether in Australia, Nauru or Manus Island. They are not the people smugglers. They are people made in the image of God, who deserve respect from all Australians, but especially our Government and its agencies. They come to Australia out of desperation, fleeing religious, ethnic or economic persecution. They seek asylum under the Refugee Convention that as a nation we have signed. Many will be found to be refugees, as the Government's own statistics demonstrate.

We call on the Australian Government to ensure that asylum seekers are treated humanely and respectfully by those charged with their care and protection, and that they are attended to in a timely manner.

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall
Primate and Metropolitan of Queensland

The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Metropolitan of Victoria

The Most Reverend Dr Glenn Davies
Metropolitan of New South Wales

The Right Reverend John Harrower OAM
Bishop of Tasmania

The Most Reverend Dr Jeffrey Driver
Metropolitan of South Australia

The Most Reverend Roger Herft AM
Metropolitan of Western Australia

Appendix 3

MOVES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Reverend John Atem	Deacon, Whitfords	01.06.14
The Reverend David Atkinson	Priest-in-Charge, Parish of East Victoria Park-Bentley	19.05.14
The Reverend Barnaba Bol	Assistant Priest, Whitfords	01.06.14
The Reverend Thom Bull	Chaplain, Swan Valley Anglican Community School and Priest-in-Charge, Ellenbrook	25.08.14
The Reverend Helen-Jane Corr	Rector, Parish of Carine-Duncraig	01.03.14
The Reverend Patrick Duckworth	Chaplain, All Saints' College	11.03.14
The Reverend Canon Dr John Dunnill	Rector, West Nedlands	01.09.14
The Reverend Lynne Eastoe	Assistant Chaplain, Fremantle Hospital	01.02.14
The Reverend Ros Fairless	Deacon, Parish of Swanbourne-Mt Claremont	22.03.14
The Reverend Abilene Fischer	Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Guildford	01.03.14
The Reverend Jillian Gleeson	Assistant Priest, Whitfords	16.09.13
The Reverend Jill Gleeson	Priest-in-Charge, Parishes of North Midlands and Morawa-Perenjori	01.07.14
The Reverend Deborah Joyce	Senior Chaplain, Amana Living	21.03.14
The Reverend Martha Kongor	Assistant Priest, Whitfords	01.06.14
The Reverend Clive McCallum	Priest-in-Charge, Lynwood-Langford-Ferndale and Associate Priest, Riverton	08.09.14
The Reverend Matthew Madul	Deacon, North Perth	22.06.14 – 21.06.15
The Reverend Sebastiana Pienaar	Deacon, St George's College	22.03.14
The Venerable Braden Short	Priest-in-Charge, Riverton and Associate Priest, Lynwood-Langford-Ferndale	08.09.14
The Reverend Debora Spencer	Deacon, Parish of Wembley	01.02.14
The Reverend Stephen Warren	Rector, Carlisle-Rivervale	01.11.13
The Reverend Timon Yanga	Regional Chaplain with Amana Living	20.05.14 – 20.11.14
The Reverend Onesimo Yugusuk	Priest-in-Charge, Heathridge	01.09.14

Change of Status

The Reverend Jan Boyle	Rector, Armadale	01.09.13
The Reverend Marie Aitken	Rector, North Beach	01.06.14
The Reverend Bruce Hyde	Rector, Parish of Bull Creek-Leeming	01.06.14
The Reverend Graeme Varvell	Rector, Parish of Warnbro	01.05.14

ORDINATIONS

Ms Ros Fairless	Deacon	22.03.14
Mrs Sebastiana Pienaar	Deacon	22.03.14

LOCUM TENENS

The Reverend Ron Attley	Spearwood	01.05.14 – 30.11.14
The Reverend Alan Brodie	Lynwood-Langford-Ferndale	01.02.14 – 27.02.14
The Reverend John Clapton	Balcatta-Hamersley	13.11.13 – 30.11.14
The Reverend Stephen Conway	Mt Lawley	27.07.14 – 28.02.15
The Reverend Peter Dunk	Como-Manning	07.10.13 – 03.11.14
	Guildford	15.11.13 – 31.05.14
	Greenwood	23.03.14 – 06.04.14
	Floreat Park	01.08.14 – 21.08.14
	Woodlands-Wembley Downs	07.09.14 – 31.12.14
The Reverend Canon Dr John Dunnill	Fremantle	26.08.13 – 31.08.14
The Reverend Dr John Forsyth	Guildford	01.11.13 – 14.11.13
	Hollywood Private Hospital	20.11.13 – 12.01.14
	St John of God, Subiaco and Murdoch	21.04.14 – 31.05.14
	Graylands	11.08.14 – 14.09.14
The Reverend Bill Hawley	Royal Perth Hospital	16.12.13 – 05.01.14
		19.05.14 – 01.06.14
		10.09.14 – 12.09.14
	Amana Living	22.04.14 – 06.05.14
		16.06.14 – 20.06.14

The Reverend Bill Hawley	Hollywood Private Hospital	15.08.14 – 24.08.14
The Reverend Dr Georgie Hawley	Victoria Park	01.08.14 – 31.07.15
The Reverend Theresa Harvey	Woodlands-Wembley Downs	24.02.14 – 30.08.14
The Venerable David Ingleson	West Nedlands	01.02.14 – 31.07.14
	Fremantle	18.08.14 – 28.02.15
The Reverend Glendon Lane	Amana Living	21.04.14 – 18.05.14
The Reverend Prue Littleton	Turquoise Coast-Dandaragan-Eneabba	09.08.14 – 31.08.15
The Reverend Peter Llewellyn	Dean of Ministry	22.03.14 – 31.12.14
The Reverend Debbie May	Fremantle	18.08.14 – 28.02.15
The Reverend Norma Metcalf	Wyalkatchem-Koorda with Dowerin	01.10.13 – 30.09.14
The Reverend Raymond Molyneux	Esperance	06.05.14 – 16.07.14
The Reverend Alexander Nakoi	Lynwood-Langford-Ferndale	13.07.14 – 31.08.14
	Amana Living	02.09.14 – 30.09.14
The Venerable Michael Pennington	Murdoch-Winthrop	10.02.14 – 31.03.15
The Reverend Terry Pickersgill	Hilton	16.06.14 – 31.01.15
The Reverend David Prescott	Nedlands	01.02.14 – 31.01.15
The Reverend Canon David Richardson OBE	Dean of Perth	01.08.14 – 31.12.14
The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd	Dean of Perth	21.06.14 – 27.07.14
The Venerable Braden Short	Riverton	16.09.13 – 28.02.14
		31.08.14 – 07.09.14
The Reverend John Smith	Royal Perth Hospital	19.01.14 – 24.01.14
		24.03.14 – 06.04.14
	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	30.06.14 – 11.08.14
The Reverend Josie Steytler	Amana Living	November/December
		02.01.14 – 27.02.14
The Reverend Canon Tom Sutton	Mt Lawley	12.05.14 - 29.06.14
	Applecross	10.08.14 – 31.01.15
The Reverend John Symons	East Victoria Park-Bentley	01.11.13 – 31.05.14
	West Nedlands	20.07.14 – 31.08.14
The Venerable Jack Thomson	Wembley	01.12.13 – 31.01.15
The Reverend Susan Thorpe-Gudgeon	All Saints' College	01.01.14 – 14.03.14
	Lynwood-Langford-Ferndale	15.03.14 – 28.06.14
	Roleystone	10.08.14 – 31.07.15
The Reverend Tony Trethowan	Spearwood	01.02.14 – 30.04.14
	Hilton	01.06.14 – 15.06.14
	Lakelands	01.09.14 – 28.02.15
The Reverend Keith Wheeler	Roleystone	01.03.14 – 09.08.14
The Reverend Harry Wheeler	Amana Living	21.03.14 – 20.04.14
The Reverend Onesimo Yugusuk	Heathridge	01.02.14 – 30.08.14

OTHER CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Reverend Dr Steven Daly	Area Dean, Perth Deanery
The Reverend Anita George	EfM Mentor
	Area Dean, Victoria Park Deanery
The Reverend Lorna Green	Area Dean, Armadale Deanery
The Reverend Ryan Green	Area Dean, Claremont Deanery
The Reverend Canon Jeremy James	Canon, St George's Cathedral
The Reverend Ross Kilpatrick	Area Dean, Gnangara Deanery
The Reverend Prue Littleton	EfM Mentor
The Reverend Clive McCallum	EfM Co-ordinator
The Reverend Dr Philip Raymont	Chair, Examining Chaplains
The Venerable Braden Short	Archdeacon of Swan and Archdeacon to the Household of Deacons Administrator
	Archbishop's Examining Chaplain
The Reverend Pamela Turner	Area Dean, Cockburn Deanery
The Reverend Graeme Varvell	

PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The Reverend Julie Barrett-Lennard
The Reverend Dr Lesley Borowitzka
The Reverend Canon Dennis Claughton
The Reverend Russell Mitchell
The Reverend Dr John Shepherd
The Reverend Christine Simes
The Reverend John Smith
The Reverend Dr John Yates

LAY APPOINTMENTS

Mr John Berger	Chief Executive Officer, St Bartholomew's House
Mr Michael Brown	Chair, St Bartholomew's House
Mr John Poynton	Chair, Christ Church Grammar School
Mr Adrian Pree	Principal, St James' Anglican School, Alkimos
Mr Nic Templeman	Archbishop's Examining Chaplain
Ms Paulene Tibbits	EfM Mentor

CLERGY RETIREMENTS

The Reverend Julie Barrett-Lennard	31.05.14
The Reverend Canon Dennis Cloughton	02.02.14
The Reverend Jim Crawley	30.09.14
The Reverend Peter Llewellyn	21.03.14
The Reverend Terry McAuliffe	30.04.14
The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd	31.07.14
The Reverend Christine Simes	12.08.14

CLERGY RESIGNATIONS

The Reverend Abilene Fischer	Priest-in-Charge, Guildford	25.09.14
The Reverend Kaye Mould	Deacon, Lynwood-Langford-Ferndale	16.03.14
The Reverend Dr Peter Sellick	Deacon, Subiaco	18.02.14
The Reverend John Smith	Deacon, Bicton-Attadale	29.06.14
The Reverend Mothy Varkey	Chaplain, Murdoch University	15.05.14
The Reverend Andrew Williams		03.08.14

DEPOSITION OF HOLY ORDERS

Raymond Sydney Cheek	21.03.14
Christopher Edward Firman	27.03.14

Revoking of Licence

The Reverend Neil Blay	30.10.13
------------------------	----------

OTHER CLERGY RESIGNATIONS

The Reverend Jan Boyle	Area Dean, Armadale Deanery
The Reverend Michael Dewsbury	Chaplain to Retired Clergy and Spouses, and Clergy Widows
The Reverend Trevor Goodman-Jones	Area Dean, Perth Deanery
The Reverend Jeni Goring	Chair and Member, Social Responsibilities Commission
The Reverend Debbie May	Chaplain, GFS-An Anglican Ministry
The Reverend John Meagher	Area Dean, Victoria Park Deanery
The Reverend Malcolm Potts	Area Dean, Claremont Deanery

LAY RETIREMENTS

Mr David Fardon	Chair, Christ Church Grammar School
-----------------	-------------------------------------

LAY RESIGNATIONS

Mr Andrew Birch	Chair, St Bartholomew's House
Mr Alan Cadby	Chair and Member, St Mark's Anglican Community School Council
Ms Pam D'Rozario	Examining Chaplain
Mr David Fardon	Chair, Christ Church Grammar School
Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie	Examining Chaplain
Mrs Cheryl Herft	Editor, <i>Anglican Messenger</i>

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

CHURCHES/BUILDINGS

Deconsecration

St Peter's, Gilgering	01.03.14
-----------------------	----------

Abolition of Parish

Parish of Eastern Goldfields	11.04.14
Parish of Southern Cross-Westonia	11.04.14

Establishment of Parish

Parish of The Goldfields	11.04.14
(incorporating the former Parishes of Eastern Goldfields and Southern Cross-Westonia)	

ANNIVERSARIES

Peter Moyes Anglican Community School	15th anniversary
Thomas Scott Village	30th anniversary
Parish of Bicton-Attadale	50th anniversary
Parish of Kalamunda	50th anniversary
Parish of North Midlands	50th anniversary
L'Arche International	50th anniversary
Parish of Darlington-Bellevue	90th anniversary of laying of foundation stone
Guildford Grammar School	100th anniversary of the Chapel of St Mary and St George
University of Western Australia	100th anniversary
Parish of Highgate	125th anniversary
St George's Cathedral	125th anniversary
Parish of York	160th anniversary

RIP

Mrs Teresa Thursby-Pelham	18.10.13 (widow of the late The Reverend John Thursby-Pelham)
Mrs Jane Weare	22.10.13 (widow of the late The Reverend Vincent Weare)
The Venerable Norman Apthorp	02.11.13
The Venerable Norman Apthorp	02.11.13
Mrs Elly Jamieson	03.12.13
The Reverend James Blades	20.12.13
The Reverend Barry Skellett	20.12.13
The Reverend Michael Rowdon	15.01.14
Lady Dell Cornish-Grindrod	23.02.14
Mrs Kath Edwards	10.03.14 (widow of the late The Reverend Canon Ron Edwards)
The Reverend Terry Ranson	31.03.14
The Reverend Elizabeth Couche	08.04.14
Deaconess Margaret Rodgers	31.05.14
The Right Reverend John McIntyre	06.06.14 (Bishop of Gippsland)
The Reverend Cec Hodgson	21.08.14
Mrs Ann Shevill	26.08.14 (widow of the late Bishop Ian Shevill AO)
Abbot Michael King	28.08.14 (Camperdown)
Mrs Laurel Muston	02.09.14 (wife of Bishop Ged Muston)
Mrs Norah Pickerill	05.09.14 (widow of the late The Reverend Jack Pickerill)

Appendix 4

The Latin inscription on the Riley staff reads:

*The Church of Western Australia gave this staff of the pastoral office, a sign of sacred rule,
to the Most Reverend Father Charles Owen leaver and his successors.
6th December 1897
Feed my sheep*

“Kalgoorlie” Riley Staff - 1902

Presentation of a Pastoral Staff to the Bishop from W.A. “CHURCH NEWS”

The Bishop's first visit to the Goldfields since his return from England, was happily marked on Friday, October 3, in Kalgoorlie, by the presentation to him of a Crosier, or Pastoral Staff, specially for use during his travels about the diocese.

The Bishop's constant labours on the fields and in country districts in his huge diocese are well-known to all men, in W.A. at any rate; but it is perhaps less realised than it should be how great are the demands thus made, not only on his physical strength, but also on his mental and moral powers by the difficulties and troubles of all sorts-the care of all the churches-which are continually poured into his patient and sympathetic ears wherever he goes.

This sympathy and patience are deeply valued by many who have been strengthened and encouraged by his visits, and it was as an expression of their affection and gratitude to the Bishop that many residents on the fields arranged to present him on his return to the Diocese with a Pastoral Staff, more suited for use on his travels than the valuable one which he already possessed.

The new staff is entirely of goldfields material and workman-ship. The crook is enriched with a number of beautiful little specimens of the different classes of ore found on the fields, the staff itself being of sandalwood, locally grown. The whole of the work has been carried out by Messrs. Caris Bros., of Kalgoorlie.

The Presentation of the staff took place in the Kalgoorlie Parish Hall, where some of the contributors were present, though many from other parts of the fields were unavoidably absent.

The Rector of Kalgoorlie expressed the wishes of the contributors in asking the Bishop's acceptance of this symbol of his office, which they hoped he might long be spared to fulfil amongst them; though, for the Bishop's sake, he hoped the day was not far distant when he might be enabled to entrust this staff, and a portion of the heavy responsibilities it denoted, to a worth assistant.

The Rector of Coolgardie having also spoken, the Bishop, in a few earnest words, thanked the people of the goldfields for thus welcoming him back again with so beautiful a gift, which had come to him as a complete surprise. It would always remind him of the deepest and most tender duties of his office, to tend and feed the lambs and sheep of the Lord's flock, and, as far as lay in his power, to see that none of them should go astray and be lost.

They hoped he might long be prepared to fulfil amongst them; though, for the Bishop's sake, he hoped the day was not far distant when he might be enabled to entrust this staff, and a portion of the heavy responsibilities it denoted, to a worthy assistant.

The Rector of Coolgardie having also spoken, tho Bishop, in a few earnest words, thanked the people of the goldfields for thus welcoming him back again with so beautiful a gift, which had come to him as a complete surprise.

It would always remind him of the deepest and most tender duties of his office, to tend and feed the lambs and sheep of the Lord's flock, and, as far as lay in his power, to see that none of them should go astray and be lost.

*Copy of letter to Members of Synod
re Synod Motion on Human Sexuality - 2012*

Ref: 7262-536

All Saints' Day 2012

Circular: Members of Synod

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I write in reference of Synod Resolution 58/12: Human Sexuality:

That this Synod:

- 1 recognises diversity within the Diocese of Perth, both in our sexual identities and in our theologies of human sexuality;
- 2 notes the support from many within the Anglican Church for committed same-sex couples being able to register their relationship as 'civil unions' in Australia; and
- 3 acknowledges that legal recognition of committed same-sex relationships may co-exist with legal recognition of marriage between a man and a woman.

I am grateful to members of Synod for their prayerful patience. I write to inform you that I have considered carefully the proposed resolution and have also considered certain advice in connection with it. I have not given my assent to this resolution. The resolution has therefore not been adopted by Synod and now will need to be dealt with under sections 11(5) & (6) of the Diocesan Constitution.

The reasons for declining my assent are as follows:

The resolution, as worded, both as a whole, and in its constituent parts, is capable of being interpreted as being contrary to the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles (as referred to in the Constitution, Canons and Rules of the Anglican Church of Australia) which, inter alia, govern the Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981 and the General Synod resolutions pertaining to this matter - see Part 1 Chapter 1:1-3 and Chapter 2:4-6 of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia. In particular in relation to clause 3 of the resolution:

- a) It is self-evident that if and/or when the legal recognition of same sex relationships is enacted by the Commonwealth Parliament, then such relationships could legally co-exist with marriage as currently defined between a man and a woman. In that circumstance, an acknowledgement by Synod of a legislative framework that currently does not exist, could be construed as having its real purpose as conveying the recognition of and call for same-sex marriage. That construction could be seen to receive not inconsiderable support from clauses 1 and 2, which as precursors to clause 3, direct attention to matters from which promotion of same-sex marriage could be argued.
- b) In clause 1 the proposed recognition of those matters tends to give a focus to sexuality which is at variance with the doctrine of the human person.

There can be no description of human reality, in general or in particular, outside the reality of Christ. We must be on guard, therefore, against constructing any other ground for our identities than the redeemed humanity given to us in him. Our sexual affections can no more define who we are than our class, race or nationality. At the deepest ontological level, therefore, there is no such thing as "a" homosexual, or "a" heterosexual; there are human beings, male and female, called to redeemed humanity in Christ, endowed with a complex variety of emotional potentialities and threatened by a complex variety of forms of alienation.¹

Resolution 1.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, Subsection 3 - Human Sexuality
taken from the Anglican Church of Australia Bishops' Protocol 15 2012

This segment of the resolution gives our sexual identity and theology on sexuality a place of prominence that is not theologically accurate.

- c) In clause 2 the noting of support for "*civil unions*" is an abstract (and undefined) notion, since "*civil unions*" have not been legislated for by the Parliament of Western Australia. It follows that insofar as "*civil unions*" were to be legislated for, the actual language of the legislation would then need close attention before any support is lent, to ensure no tensions existed with the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles referred to earlier.

The resolution now necessarily moves through procedures described in the Constitution Act of the Diocese of Perth 1871 in section 11 (5)(a)(b)(c) and section 6. All action is suspended until the next session of Synod when it shall again be considered. If it is confirmed by being carried in each of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, and the Archbishop maintains his dissent, the resolution shall be referred to the Provincial Council whose vote is final. If passed the resolution is taken to be a resolution of Synod.

I am grateful to those who have prayed for me during this difficult time.

In matters of human pastoral concern there are no winners or losers - all of us stand in need of grace and mercy in our journey into Christlikeness.

I stand committed to the references made in my Address to Synod in support of the courageous living in the face of great odds by gay and lesbian people who are committed to our Church.

Blessings and prayers.

Yours sincerely

The Most Reverend Roger Herft
Archbishop

¹ *An examination of the theological Principles Affecting the Homosexual Debate*, St Andrew's Day Statement 1995

Copy of letter to Members of Synod re Synod Motion on Human Sexuality - 2013

0185-1013-536

St Simon and St Jude
28 October 2013

Circular: Members of Synod

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The motion on human sexuality before the Synod in 2012 was dissented to by me as per my letter to members of Synod of 1 November 2012, to which I adhere. I attach this letter for your convenience noting that the new members of Synod did not receive this correspondence and that it was not included in the 2013 Synod papers. The motion reads:

That this Synod

- 1 Recognise diversity within the Diocese of Perth, both in our sexual identities and in our theologies of human sexuality;
- 2 note the support from many within the Anglican Church for committed same-sex couples being able to register their relationships as 'civil unions' in Australia; and
- 3 acknowledge that legal recognition of committed same-sex relationships may coexist with legal recognition of marriage between a man and a woman.

I note that this same motion returning to Synod 2013 received the requisite majority in the Houses of Clergy and Laity. This Synod and the area of its jurisdiction and governance are limited by the Constitution, the Fundamental Declarations, Canons and Rules of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Whilst it is a fact that there is diversity within the Diocese of Perth both in our sexual identities and in our theologies of human sexuality, the recognition of diversity in identity and theologies can lead to a view that all sexual identity and theologies, however diverse they are, are acceptable. The word "recognition" connotes formal acceptance. The Church cannot formally accept certain behaviours. Sexual identity and theological diversity that permits abuse, promiscuity and exploitation is abhorrent.

Moreover by virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ we are made "children of the one heavenly Father and inheritors of the kingdom of God". That is the primary lens through which we recognise each other and not by virtue of our sexuality. I reiterate that the first part of the motion gives our sexual identity and theology on sexuality a place of prominence that is not theologically sound.

The second part of the motion refers to support for civil unions for same-sex couples. The expression of the opinion in this part of the motion in the absence of any relevant local legislative context serves to reinforce the notion that the Diocese of Perth is accepting of any form of legally sanctioned same-sex union. Also the phrase “many Anglicans” plainly could not include the majority of Anglicans in countries where such support would mean death.

In the third part of the motion “legal recognition of committed same-sex relationships” may be seen to include the recognition of same-sex marriage. That is confirmed by a consideration of the motion as a whole.

The Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles of the Anglican Church of Australia that you and I give assent to and as reiterated at this Synod by the passing of resolution 10.6 in respect of the 450th Anniversary of the Thirty Nine Articles, have the *Book of Common Prayer (BCP)* as the authorised standard in matters pertaining to worship and doctrine.

The third part of the motion, in the context of the motion as a whole, is likely to have unintended consequences in terms of the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles of the Anglican Church of Australia regarding the Sacrament of Marriage. The members of Synod who passed the motion may not have intended to depart from the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles of the Anglican Church of Australia to which I have referred but that is the effect of the motion.

Accordingly I remain unable to assent to this motion.

I have requested the Provincial Secretary to call a special meeting of the Provincial Council to determine this matter as required by our Constitution.

With prayerful good wishes.

In Christ

Archbishop

