

## **Proposal to Change the Provisional Parish of Lavender Bay to a Parish**

(A report from the North Sydney Regional Council.)

### **Introduction**

1. A proposal to the Archbishop by the Minister and Churchwardens of the provisional parish of Christ Church, Lavender Bay under clause 4(1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### **Proposal**

2. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Christ Church, Lavender Bay into a parish.

### **Parish Information**

#### *Anglican Population*

3. According to the 1996 Census, in a total population of 5,265, 25% (1,200) claim affiliation with the Anglican Church. There is a much higher than average population of young, unmarried adults who rent rather than own their own dwellings. It is known that there is very high turnover of tenancy in the area. A higher than average group state that they have no religion (36% to the Nation's average of 25%) while Roman Catholics and Anglicans make up 23% and 25% of the population respectively (a total of 48%). Of those who are not Australian by birth, the majority come from the United Kingdom. The church is situated within two blocks of North Sydney Station and CBD. Although, its main drawing areas locally are McMahon's Point, Milson's Point, Wollstonecraft and Waverton, many of its congregation come from suburbs further afield. These are attracted to the church by the warmth of its fellowship, its unequivocal evangelical teaching and its liturgical worship.

#### *Ministry Team*

4. At present, the provisional parish is ministered to by Archdeacon Peter Smart assisted by the Rev Ross McDonald who is in a part-time capacity. Archdeacon Smart has a major role in the Diocese as Registrar and Personal Assistant to the Archbishop but will retire from these positions at the end of 2001. The Retirements Board has granted him permission to continue as minister in charge/rector of Christ Church for a further 3 years. Ross McDonald is retired and is able to spend 2 or 3 days each week in parish work. Archdeacon Smart's wife, Elizabeth, makes a highly significant contribution to church life as does the student minister, Jennifer Stoddart. It is anticipated that this ministry team will remain unchanged in the immediate future.

#### *Congregational Numbers*

5. The provisional parish has one service each Sunday at 10am which is alternatively Morning Prayer or Holy Communion. Average weekly attendance on Sundays in 2000 was 97.4 (90 in 1999).

#### *Significant Ministry Strategies*

6. A very large number of weddings are held at Christ Church (53 were conducted in 2000) and the staff have developed a highly effective strategy for marriage preparation, inclusion in congregational life and follow-up after marriage. Lunches are held for the recently married and a Young Couples Group has gathered interested couples for fellowship and Christian teaching. A significant number of core members of Christ Church were married there in recent years.

7. A small Sunday School is held concurrently with the morning service. A business breakfast is held fortnightly and attracts 8-10 members. Bible studies are held in blocks of 4 in the rectory and are generally well attended. A women's bible study is held weekly in school term. Women's lunches are held regularly in the rectory. Lunches are also held for the parents of the recently baptised and for those married in the church.

8. Outreach is also linked to special musical events on Sunday afternoons or evenings. Visitors are also welcome at regular parish lunches held in the grounds of the church and to such occasions at the New Year's Eve Service and "Parish" Fireworks which follow.

### **Particulars of church trust property**

9. The church and rectory are both over 130 years old and maintenance costs are very heavy.

Property	Value of Land and Improvements	Condition of Building
<b>Christ Church, Lavender Bay</b>		
Church	\$12,557,000	Good
Church Hall		Good
Rectory		Good
Garage		Fair
Columbarium		Good
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,557,000</b>	

10. Summary of the financial position of the parish over the past 3 years and budget for 2001 are as follows -

	1998 \$	1999 \$	2000 \$	Budget 2001 \$
<b>Receipts</b>				
General Offerories	36,820	38,950	51,477	* 75,000
Missions	2,851	3,316	3,731	4,000
Rent/interest	73,245	71,347	102,043	80,000
Donations	3,650	7,368	11,996	12,000
Redemption Investments	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Other	-	2,894	2,458	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,566</b>	<b>123,875</b>	<b>171,705</b>	<b>173,500</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Stipend, salaries	37,196	25,198	26,449	50,516
Other staffing costs	2,225	3,460	8,666	10,248
Diocesan assessments	4,975	6,260	6,496	6,500
Printing, Stationery	1,245	1,459	3,408	3,500
Repairs, maintenance & cleaning	22,851	32,813	32,071	25,000
Insurance	110	134	375	380
Electricity/gas/water	1,597	1,702	3,240	3,500
Missions	3,867	14,078	3,305	4,000
Prop Investments	-	24,464	36,892	40,000
Equipment	-	-	13,837	14,000
Other	8,361	13,970	10,808	11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,427</b>	<b>123,538</b>	<b>145,547</b>	<b>168,644</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>34,139</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>26,158</b>	<b>4,856</b>

\* It is anticipated that stipends, allowances and PCR costs will be met from local revenue.

11. A summary of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2000 follows -

<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>
Land/buildings/furniture & fixtures	13,347,277
Investments	131,947
Current	45,353
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,524,577</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current	3,445
Non current	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,445</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>13,521,132</b>

**Recommendation**

12. The North Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Christ Church, Lavender Bay be changed into a parish from 1 January 2002.

For and on behalf of the North Sydney Regional Council.

ERNIE CARNABY  
*Archdeacon of North Sydney*

3 October 2001