



Anglican Church of Australia

Missionary Diocese of Tasmania

***THE GOD OF LIFE:
Life Giving Commitments***

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*AT THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE
52ND SYNOD*

The Right Reverend John Harrower OAM
Bishop of Tasmania

Launceston 31 May 2013

ahealthy**church**...transforming**life**

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THE GOD OF LIFE: LIFE GIVING COMMITMENTS

Presidential Address Synod 2013

WELCOME TO SYNOD!

Good morning. I extend my very warm welcome to each and every member of this 52nd Synod of our Diocese.

Some of you may be wondering why God has called you to this place of responsibility. Like every place of ministry, Synod is a time of joy and reflection, but also responsibility and action. Thank you for taking up this role.

In the Anglican Church a Diocese is governed by a Synod. The instruments of the church are sustained as the leadership of the bishop engages with the advice and consent of clergy and laity. Synod partners with this leadership by discerning, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the path that the Lord is unfolding before us. This sustains our pilgrimage as we strive to meet the challenges of a healthy church transforming life. My hope and expectation is that this Synod will faithfully attend to its responsibilities and this discernment.

So let us pray for the Lord's blessing and guidance.

*Loving and Gracious God,
you ever call us to new life in Jesus your Son
in whose name we gather.*

*At this, the first ordinary session of the 52nd Synod of the Diocese of
Tasmania:*

*We acknowledge our need of you.
We confess that we have sinned,
in our thoughts, our words,
and our deeds of commission and omission.*

*Give us the gift of your Holy Spirit,
to inspire and lead us,
that, together, we may offer you worship and praise.*

*In the spirit of Christ's love and grace,
help us to focus on the business before us,
to listen with humility and care,
to ask good questions and to listen,
and to encourage one another, even as we may disagree.*

*Guide and encourage all those
who minister in your name
throughout this Diocese.*

*All of which we ask
in the name of Jesus, our chief Shepherd. Amen*

I praise God for the continued blessing of faithful ministry in the name of Christ across the Diocese. I acknowledge with deep thanks the core, week-by-week, ministry that occurs in the parishes, congregations and agencies across this Diocese. This faithful ministry supports and sustains our Christian communities.

Evidence of the shared blessing of this ministry is tangible: There has been positive growth in children's and youth ministry. We have Tasmanians in theological college, undertaking training placements and missionary service. We have placed clergy in parishes which have had long interregnums. We have seen a generous response to the bushfire appeal, Friday Forums at the Cathedral, and building extensions at St Leonard's and Wellspring. These are but a few examples. Thank you, each and every one for your unique contribution to our Lord's mission in Tasmania.

However, we all appreciate that this last year has not been without challenge.

In my 2012 address to Synod I mentioned the approaching "social tsunami" of issues that would be entering public debate. These issues – euthanasia, marriage redefinition and, unexpectedly, abortion, amongst others – speak to the nature of humanity, the characteristics of community, and the fundamental manner in which life is embraced, respected and affirmed in our society.

Many of us have engaged in intense levels of public debate, letter writing, emailing, lobbying, facebooking and deep prayer over these issues of vital importance. I offer my sincere thanks to all those Anglicans who have taken the time to contribute to the public discourse during the year.

Please refer to Bishop John's blog (http://imaginarydiocese.org/bishopjohn/) and <i>Attachment A</i> for some of the contributions the Diocese has made and the resources available to you.

As church in society we have had a major workout. We have seen and experienced the extent to which life-giving biblical values and principles are lost from our community. I believe that this is a challenge to Tasmanian Christians to exercise an energised twenty-first century discipleship.

THE GOD OF LIFE: OUR MOTIVATION and CHALLENGE

The Word of God allows us to grasp this challenge. Consider how St. Paul wrote to Timothy. Having described the characteristics and values of the corrupt community in which Timothy would minister, St. Paul writes:

¹¹ *But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.* ¹² *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* ¹³ ***In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you*** ¹⁴ *to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ¹⁵ *which God will bring about in his own time — God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,* ¹⁶ *who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.*

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

Like Timothy, this Synod meets in the sight of God and in the sight of Christ Jesus our Lord. If we do not act to promote the things of life – *“righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness”*; if we do not promote these things within us and around us, we will not have met this challenge.

Therefore, my first concern for Synod, knowing that Christ is with us and watching us, is that he sees in us an active faith. There is much that a Synod should and must do. It must meet various legal responsibilities and embrace principles of good order. But if we do not promote the things of life, we are a withered branch.

In recent months the motif *“The God of Life”* has been at the centre of my thinking. It has progressed to become a recurring theme and a **dominant motivation** in my life and work. Paul tells Timothy that God is the God who gives life to everything! God creates, redeems and sustains life. As John Stott says, Paul and Timothy believed that God is *“intimately involved in all of their affairs.”*¹

This challenge for *us*, the members of Synod, ones who carry Christ’s name in this place in history, is to focus, to sharpen, and to deepen the capacity of this Diocese.

It is to focus, sharpen, and deepen our capacity in order to effectively demonstrate the reality of Christ’s life-giving rule in this place and at this time. As His disciples, charged with our specific responsibilities we must show determination and discipline in following the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul’s exhortation to Timothy to live out his life with full conviction and total commitment is a guide for us today.

1 Bible Speaks Today, *1 Timothy, Titus*: John R.W.Stott. p.158.

Let me note in passing how beautiful it would have been for Timothy to read these words from Paul: “*you, man of God!*” We can only begin to imagine Timothy’s joy and humility, and even, I suggest, his tears, as he reads and reflects on these treasured words, “*you, man of God*”. Praise the Lord for the encouragers among us who take time to exhort us and lift us up!

Paul exhorts Timothy to flee from evil and to pursue godliness.

We are to flee from false teaching and the love of material things. We also are to flee towards “*righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.*” (1 Tim. 6:11). These six virtues resonate with the fruit of the Holy Spirit: “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*” (Galatians. 5:22,23).

Discipleship is active. It is the activity of fleeing, pursuing, fighting the good fight, taking hold, keeping the command without spot or blemish. It is the activity which keeps in step with the Holy Spirit and nurtures the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian life is no soft option. Christian life requires decisions, choices, and commitments. In Christian community we seek together the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit so that our discipleship may be exactly this - active and vitally true to Christ’s life.

We are Anglicans gathered here. Where in our prayer books do we hear the phrase “*fight the good fight*”? Yes, in our baptism and confirmation services. The athletic imagery of running the race, fighting the good fight and keeping the faith are common expressions to fuel our discipline and our determination to follow Christ.

We know that it is not always easy to choose the way of Christ. We are opposed by a wider community that does not know him; we face evil, principalities and powers opposed to Christ and his people, the church. Yet, we are to “*take hold of the eternal life*” (1 Tim. 6:12) and have this assurance that once eternal life has been grasped it can never be shaken.

As disciples of the One who is the ‘*resurrection and the life*’ (John 11:25) we are Christ’s life, light and love in the world. Our work is shaped by the promise of eternal life, the promise of an end to suffering and pain, the promise of an end to marginalisation and injustice. Our work in the here and now has this eternal shape.

Discipleship includes the public “*good confession*” (1 Tim. 6:15) of our faith in the Lord Jesus: as has been demonstrated by those who have stood up in the face of the recent tsunami of social issues. The Holy Spirit assists us and empowers us in this, ever pointing us to Christ and his promise.

*We must recover our sense of vocation, our sense that we are not an organisation of people who have a common interest in religion, but that we are the local representatives of the God whom we serve and of the Heaven to which we belong.*²

My prayer is that we will be clear about our vocation and confident about our future; filled with hope, passion, and courage as we engage in the mission and vision of Christ which is ours as Anglicans.

Always remember that God is intimately involved in all of *our* affairs. As the Synod of this Diocese we must be a people who will take hold of the eternal life to which we are called. That eternal life begins now, even in us, and yes, even in the business of our Synod agenda, because God is the living, life-giving, involved-in-life God.

THREE COMMITMENTS TO THE GOD OF LIFE

I have now entered the final quarter of my time on this field of mission as your Bishop. I became the Bishop of Tasmania in July 2000 and God-willing, this time will conclude in 2016 when another Bishop will join with you on this field of mission. I want my final quarter on this field to be life-giving for the Diocese. I have given deep thought and prayer in asking God to help me discern an agenda of priorities for this period of my ministry. Within our broad responsibilities as a Synod I wish to highlight three priorities which I believe demand our commitment.

It's not always wise to quote sportsmen, but I couldn't resist the great VFL/AFL legend Ted Witten in order to illustrate my determination in these things. It is reported that he once said with great passion,

*"It's got to be a do-or-die effort. It's got to be a determined effort. You've got to show me all the guts and determination you've got in your body. You've got to inspire me with this last quarter finish. You've been in front all day and you've got to stay there."*³

With you, I face the challenge of playing out my final quarter charged with the command to fight the good fight of faith. My intention is that together we will identify and commit ourselves to those priorities which are right for this period of ministry. This may require on my part and yours a bit of Ted Witten's "*guts and determination*". I am up to it. Are you?

My aim is that the God of Life will be glorified and that life in all its fullness will pulse through Tasmania as a result of our work together.

2 *New Testament Christianity*, J.B. Phillips, Hodder and Stoughton. London 1956.

3 Ted Witten at ¾ time, Footscray vs. Hawthorn, 1970, <http://www.topendsports.com/sport/afll/quotes.htm>

Commitment #1 – A Commitment to Relationship and Community

I have become more than ever convinced that our vocation in the fragmented communities of Tasmania is this: We are to be Christians gathering in bold and life-giving community which is both fresh and ancient. Yes my vision has not changed; it is a vision of a healthy church, transforming life.

I do not apologise for stating what might seem perfectly obvious. The challenge by my assessment is that we must urgently prioritise any means by which we may enhance our relationships within local Anglican communities and be a true community of communities as a Diocese.

My test for us is to see if we can be congregations of life, an alternative community, a place where life-renewing principles, values, and interpersonal ethics are lived out in healthy, balanced social relationships. We are Christ's community called to live out his values and express the life of the kingdom of God.

Let us live in the Risen Christ as his Body, the Church: the resurrection community of life. Let us praise God for his life given to us in double measure: in creation and in redemption. What joy, what blessed assurance! Life in all its fullness is in Christ. Alleluia! Amen!

Therefore, as Christ's people, in this part of Tasmanian history we must stand as beacons of life against the culture of death. Jesus Christ is "*the Way, the Truth and the Life*" (*John 14:6*) and we belong to him.

How is the Christ-life lived in the midst of our culture? It is lived through the exercise of true Christian community. Christian community is the counterpoint to a culture of death. Christian community is imbued with the Christ-life, the culture of life. This is our DNA, our very identity as God's people.

The extent to which we succeed will be evidence of the sufficiency of our worship of the only living and life giving triune God.

As a Synod I am calling you to embrace the following commitment:

Commitment 1: By God's grace and to His glory we, the Synod of the Diocese, commit ourselves to the values of Christ and his kingdom; we will do all within our capacity to enable the life of Christ to be lived within the Diocese as a community of communities.

Commitment #2 – A Commitment to Our Leaders

Recall Paul's words to Timothy, "*in the sight of God ... and of Jesus Christ ... I charge you*" (1 Tim. 6:13). This is a solemn charge to a young leader in the church. Paul does not hold back on the high responsibility for leadership of Christ's people. It is God, the One who gives life to everything, the God of Life, who holds us responsible for being faithful to the truth of life.

Leadership is serious. We must have among us men and women able to lead after the model of Christ who came "*not to be served but to serve*" (Mark 10:45).

I hope that our leaders and especially the clergy team feel that this is a wonderful Diocese in which to be in ministry. We have worked hard to establish systems of support which provide opportunities for our leaders to thrive.

Yet, for Christian leaders, ordained and lay, we live in challenging times! It is tough-going being a leader in ministry. It seems to be a world-wide phenomenon that absolutely unacceptable and shocking levels of stress and depression are prevalent among clergy. But Christ's yoke is meant to be light! So what is happening?

Change is happening! The leaders in our church are courageously confronting enormous change. This high level of change demands high levels of leadership skill.

*"Change is the province of leaders. It is the work of leaders to inspire people to do things differently, to struggle against uncertain odds, and to persevere toward a misty image of a better future. Without leadership there would not be the extraordinary efforts necessary to solve existing problems and realise unimagined opportunities. We have today, at best, only faint clues of what the future may hold, but we are confident that without leadership the possibilities will neither be envisioned nor attained."*⁴

So, how do we achieve this?

There are excellent resources available to our leaders which are of great help. The resources, however, also serve to highlight the complexity of the task which leaders confront in ministry today.

As an example the book, *Christian Reflections on The Leadership Challenge*⁵ describes five practices of exemplary leaders:

Model the Way: leaders are to set the example - 'walk the talk'.

Inspire a Shared Vision: Jesus spoke and showed the kingdom of God.

4 Christian Reflections on The Leadership Challenge, [James M. Kouzes](#) (Editor), [Barry Z. Posner](#) (Editor), [John C. Maxwell](#) (Foreword by) , Published by Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, 2012.

5 Ibid, page 5.

Challenge the Process: Jesus is ‘The Master of the Question’.

Enable Others to Act: the Holy Spirit and community development.

Encourage the Heart: note Barnabas, the ‘son of encouragement’.

Faced with the reality of the complexity and demands placed on our leaders, we must address the question of how to continually improve our capacity to support them in fulfilling their calling among us.

We are doing many things well.

The Registry currently supports our leaders through good management of all matters relating to the terms and conditions of their employment.

The Ministry Council of the Diocese continues to invest in leadership development opportunities. These include traineeships, curacy placements, Ministry Conference, Bishop’s Prayer Retreat, Clergy Conference, and Rectors’ Retreats with the Bishop and Director of Ministry Services. It is vital for our health to continue to invest in leadership formation and sustenance. As an example, I am currently participating in a leadership course with clergy and young lay leaders.

The Mission Support Officers and Mission Network Chaplains provide pastoral care and assistance as required.

However, my challenge is that this is the time to do more for our leaders. We must continue to invest in these men and women. We must look to review and strengthen our support systems, better focus resources and ensure that we care for each person in order to sustain them in their vital leadership role.

As a Synod I am calling you to embrace and promote the following commitment:

Commitment 2: By God’s grace and to His glory we, the Synod of the Diocese, commit ourselves to do all within our responsibility and capacity to enable, support and sustain the ministry of those called to leadership within the church.

Commitment #3 – A Commitment to Good Governance

The final commitment is vital. I am sure that I am not alone in my belief that we need to comprehensively review the formal structures of governance and the operation of our Diocese. This is a classic must-do in a final quarter battle.

Our governance systems and structures are the result of 150 years of accumulated decision making. Our legislative framework shows the signs and burdens of years of accreted wisdom. It is time to concern ourselves with these matters.

These are not matters to consider lightly but, in the face of increasing Government demands for compliance, we must simplify as much of the governance ministry as possible. The diocesan structure as presently shaped to cover parish and other ministry agents does not have the capacity to sustain the need to comply with increasing demands. This potentially exposes all of us who give leadership in parish life and ministry.

Administratively, and structurally we must rethink how best to support the mission of the church. Within my role, I rely on the pastoral administration of my office and the registry to assist me in exercising leadership. That leadership is currently greatly diminished by a lack of resources to review, restructure and implement effective systems.

Action in this area will require us to define clear principles for how we are structured. We must be as brave and creative as necessary to establish systems which release and enable apostolic and episcopal leadership in the Diocese while maintaining essential order.

As a Synod I am calling you to embrace and promote the following commitment:

Commitment 3: By God's grace and to His glory we, the Synod of the Diocese, commit ourselves to do all within our responsibility and capacity to enable good and life-giving governance of the Diocese.

OUR RESOLVE

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we live among a generation that struggles to comprehend where its well-being and life lie. May the resolve of this Synod be clear.

We will work to deepen our identity and deep roots in Christ.

We accept the challenge to demonstrate to this generation the relevance of Christian faith.

We will do all that is necessary within our charge to enable a wholehearted response to the imperative that the gospel is presented afresh in our generation.

Entrusting our work to the God of Life and as evidence of your resolve I call upon this Synod to hold as priorities the three commitments that I place before you today and to urgently consider any motions that may enliven your commitment.

DOXOLOGY

Let the grace and peace of Christ, the dynamism of the Holy Spirit and the glory of God the Father bless, guide and guard Tasmania.

And in the words of St Paul (*1 Timothy 6:15,16*):

God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.

The Right Reverend John Harrower OAM

Bishop of Tasmania

31 May 2013

FOR DISCUSSION

Bishop John has called on us to meet challenges by embracing and promoting three commitments as focussing priorities. He also encouraged us in our role as members of Synod to spend time considering these challenges.

Each table group is being asked to concentrate on one of the commitments. In this way Synod will be able to consider each of the focus areas and record their thoughts about how we can put these commitments into action together.

Commitments need to be grounded in the reality of action. In regard to our agenda that may mean the consideration of business and especially motions without notice.

The Bishop has asked the Director of Ministry Services, Paul Cavanough, to gather your suggestions and to bring motions for our consideration at an appropriate time during this session of Synod. Please pass your suggestions to Paul prior to proceeding to lunch. He will work to determine if there are common themes that may be formed as motions for consideration. However, all suggestions will be passed to the secretary of Diocesan Council for their consideration at a later date.

Of course any member of Synod is able to bring a motion without notice according to our procedures.

Commitment 1 – A Commitment to Relationship and Community

Commitment 1: By God's grace and to His glory we, the Synod of the Diocese, commit ourselves to the values of Christ and his kingdom; we will do all within our capacity to enable the life of Christ to be lived within the Diocese as a community of communities.

Commitment 2 – A Commitment to Our Leaders

Commitment 2: By God's grace and to His glory we, the Synod of the Diocese, commit ourselves to do all within our responsibility and capacity to enable, support and sustain the ministry of those called to leadership within the church.

Commitment 3 – A Commitment to Good Governance

By God's grace and to His glory we, the Synod of the Diocese, commit ourselves to do all within our responsibility and capacity to enable good and life-giving governance of the Diocese.

- *What do you see as the possibilities and risks for the Bishop in his final quarter of this ministry? What advice would you like to give +John for his final quarter?*
- *Bishop John commends three commitments to us as the Synod of the Diocese. Consider the commitment that your table group has been asked to focus on. How can that commitment be put into action in the operation of Synod?*
- *What action is needed now, what can be done in this session of Synod?*

Example of a form of motion which may be considered:

That by God's grace and to His glory this Synod commits to furthering [community and relationship | support of leadership | good governance] and requests the Bishop, through the councils of the church, to investigate the following measures:

- ...[insert suggestion from the table group]
- ...[insert suggestion from the table group]

NOTE: Leave will be sought from Synod to bring forward a motion or motions to reflect these commitments and table discussions.

You will find these attachments in your Synod pack which you received as you registered.

***THE GOD OF LIFE:
Life Giving Commitments***

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ATTACHMENTS

SOME OF THE BISHOP'S WRITINGS

Ad Clerums

- Ad Clerum 05/2013 – 15 May 2013 Confession of Sins
- Ad Clerum 04/2013 – 12 April 2013 Abortion on Demand
- Ad Clerum 02/2013 – 27 February 2013 A Place of Rest
- Ad Clerum 01/2013 – 9 January 2013 Tasmanian Bushfires
- Ad Clerum 04/2012 – 14 November 2012 Royal Commission Child Sexual Abuse
- Ad Clerum 03/2012 – 6 November 2012 Licence Advice
- Ad Clerum 02/2012 – 28 August 2012 Social Issues Legislation
- Ad Clerum 01/2012 - 19 June 2012 Vale Jill Martin

Pastoral Letters

- 24 April 2013 - An Update on the Abortion Debate
- 18 March 2013 - Abortion Law for Tasmania?
- 9 January 2013 - Tasmanian Bushfires

Tasmanian Anglican

- April 2013 - Life & Hope
- February 2013 - God Speaks
- December 2013 - God speaks. God speaks life. God speaks life to us
- October 2012 - My Grandmother won first prize for...
- August 2012 - A Particular Search for God
- June 2012 - Living with Grief

Media Releases

- 22 May 2013 - [Poker Machine Reform](#)
- 26 April 2013 - [Sitting Down Together](#)
- 17 April 2013 - [Bishop's sadness at passage of Abortion Bill](#)
- 29 March 2013 - [Easter Message](#)
- 27 March 2013 - [Bishop's Easter Interview and Services](#)
- 1 March 2013 - [New Leaders](#)
- 8 January 2013 - [Bushfires: Media Release](#)
- 19 December 2012 - [Bishop's Christmas Message and Services](#)
- 30 November 2013 - [New Leaders for Anglican Church](#)
- 29 August 2012 - [Anglicans Urge Parliament to Reject Same Sex Marriage Bill](#)
- 8 August 2012 - [Anglicans Urge Parliament to Reject Same-Sex Marriage Legislation](#)

Published Letters

- 15 April 2013 - [Letter to the Editor: Abortion](#)

From the Bishop's Desk

10/12 – 6 June 2012

- Synod 2012 – Annual Meeting of the Anglican Church of Tasmania
- Ministry Conference: 13-15 July
- Peacewise Training: Hobart
- Andrew and Pamela Lake's Move
- Church Together – 20 May
- Ordination of a Deacon – Frank Lee
- Congratulations: The Revd Alan Bulmer Receives Volunteer Award
- Book Launch
- Webber Lecture: The Hutchins School
- Friday Forum: St David's Cathedral
- Bishop's Protocols
- Scholarship Opportunity

11/12 – 22 June 2012

- Vale the Revd Jill Martin
- Chaplains Day – South
- Parish of Franklin/Esperance Visit
- Booklaunch: Sexegesis
- Parish of Brighton Visit
- Ministry Conference: 13-15 July
- Peacewise Training: Hobart
- Order of Australia Awards
- Annual Leave

12/12 – 19 July 2012

- Prayers for Registrar
- Farewell and Thanks to Arianne and Margaret
- Appointment to the Parish of Longford/Perth
- Ministry Conference
- Bible Society – Reading the Bible
- St John's Launceston Visit
- Bible Study @ Edge Anglican
- The Hutchins School
- Family Voice Dinner
- Residential Gathering of Rectors North
- Parish of Sandford
- Annual Leave - August

13/12 – 10 August 2012 (Vicar General's Desk)

- Bishop John – Annual Leave
- Registrar's Health
- Marriage Redefinition
- Certificate in Theology and Ministry Graduates
- Ordination and Commissioning: Parish of New Norfolk
- Ordination: Devonport
- Advertised Parishes
- Surgery Waiting Lists
- Clergy Conference: Save the Date
- Bishop Phillip Newell's Bishop's Birthday
- Farewell Arianne

14/12 – 24 August 2012 (Vicar General's Desk)

- Vale Aubrey Brigg
- Prayer for the Revd Gill Briggs
- The Revd Noel Bowditch Appointed as Enabler of the Parish of Circular Head
- Ordination
- Headmaster of Launceston Church Grammar School
- All Saints South Hobart – Stained Glass Windows
- Advertised Parishes
- Cathedral History
- Humanitarian Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

15/12 – 3 September 2012 (Vicar General's Desk)

- Bishop John Returns from Annual Leave
- Burnie Seminar
- "Can We Trust the New Testament?" Lecture, 12 September
- Upcoming Training Events
- New Guinea Martyrs
- Tax Deductible Funds

15/12 – 3 September 2012 Continued

- Appointments to the Parishes of Buckland and Brighton
- Liturgical and Study Material for the Season of Creation
- Director of Ministry Service – Annual Leave

16/12 – 18 September 2012

- Why Can We Trust the New Testament? Lecture
- Parish of Hamilton Visit
- Ordinations, Commissionings and Confirmations
- Anglican Spirituality Seminar
- Ordination – Mattias Socorro
- Same-Sex Marriage Bill
- Parish of Deloraine Visit
- Anglicare Conference
- Preaching Workshop – Bishop Ross Nicholson
- Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women
- Leave

17/12 – 28 September 2012

- Same-Sex Marriage

18/12 – 17 October 2012

- Solomon Islands' Trip
- Collegiate Confirmation
- Retired Clergy Luncheons
- The Revd Matt Socorro
- Launceston Church Grammar School Visit
- The Hutchins School Confirmation Service
- Craig Dumas
- Visit to the Parish of New Norfolk
- Visit to the Newly Formed Parishes of Glenorchy and Moonah
- Building a Discipleship Culture Workshop, 12-14 November 2012, Poatina TAS
- Mission to Seafarers Australia

19/12 – 6 November 2012

- Clergy Conference
- Upcoming Ordination – 1 December 2012
- Edge Anglican Visit
- Retired Clergy Luncheon – South
- Ministry Council/Mission Support Officers Retreat
- New Children's Ministry at Holy Trinity Launceston
- Cursillo Ultreya
- Visit to Parish of Circular Head
- Solomon Islands World Vision Trip
- Annual Leave: Anna Fabian

20/12 – 15 November 2012

- National Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse

21/12 – 28 November 2012

- Ordination
- National Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Celebrating "20 Years of Women in Ministry"

22/12 – 6 December 2012

- Ordination Success
- Visit to Parish of Cressy
- Celebrating "20 Years of Women in Ministry"
- Appointment to The Hutchins School Board
- Mission to Seafarers AGM
- Chaplain Scott Sargent
- Parish Visit to Bellerive
- Commissioning and Confirmations
- New Modules & A Warm Commendation for our Preaching Page
- Ministry Secretary on the Move

23/12 – 19 December 2012

- Appointment to St Michael's Collegiate School Board
- Appointment of Rector for Parish of The City of Devonport
- Appointment of Youth & Young Adult Minister – Wellspring
- Parish of Longford/Perth – Commencement of Ministry
- Commissioning at Brighton Parish
- Visit to Parish of Wellspring
- Celebrating "20 Years of Women in Ministry"
- Cathedral Confirmations
- Christmas Greetings

01/13 – 8 January 2013

- Tasmanian Bushfires

02/13 – 9 January 2013

- Tasmanian Bushfires

03/13 – 31 January 2013

- January Tasmanian Bushfires
- Bereavement
- Growing Disciples of Jesus
- Tasmanian Council of Churches (TCC)
- Commissioning
- Burnie Seminar
- Anglican Camping Tasmania
- Assistant for the Bishop

04/13 – 13 February 2013

- Russell Morton
- CMS Summerview
- Commissioning Service
- Ordination of Deacons
- Burnie Seminar & Back to Church Sunday
- St John's Hospital
- Launceston Anglican Health & Welfare Visit
- Ash Wednesday

05/13 – 8 March 2013

- The Resignation of the Director of Business Services (Registrar)

06/13 – 14 March 2013

- Recommitment to Ministry
- Euthanasia Video Clip
- St John's Hospital
- Parliamentary Prayer Evening
- Ordination of Deacons
- Commissioning
- Visit to Old Beach and Pontville
- Resources
- 2013 Tasmanian Bible Forums
- Funeral Services for Russell Morton and Peter North
- Bereavements

07/13 – 15 March 2013

- Bishop's Pastoral Letter – Abortion Law for Tasmania?

08/13 – 18 March 2013

- Bishop's Pastoral Letter: Abortion Law for Tasmania? Update to 07/13

09/13 – 25 March 2013

- Jesus: Life and Hope
- All Anglicans Invited – Holy Week Gathering: Tomorrow
- Easter Awakening March

10/13 – 5 April 2013

- Director of Business Services (Registrar)
- Anglican Schools
- Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal
- Ceremonial Sitting at the Supreme Court
- Northwest Visit in the Lead up to Easter
- Holy Week Gatherings
- Good Friday and Easter Sunday
- Revd Steve Brown Moving to Geelong

10/13 – 5 April 2013 Continued

- David and Trudy Sharman and the Order of St Luke
- Submissions to Tasmanian Government

11/13 – 3 May 2013

- Ordination of Deacons
- The Salamanca Declaration
- Visit to Ridley College Melbourne
- 2013 Diocesan Ministry Conf.
- Parish Visits
- Common Prayer
- Op-Ed Piece in the Examiner
- Abortion Legislation in Tasmania
- Some Changes at Quamby Parish
- The Giving of Money

12/13 – 23 May 2013

- Prayer Retreat
- The Choice to Care
- Reconciliation Week
- Mary Meets Mohammad
- Ordinations
- Parish Visits
- Church Together

Bishop's Blogs

May 2013

- [Working with Children card](#)
- [Abortion Update 24 May 2013](#)
- [\\$1 Bet Limit Tas proposal](#)
- [Insider reflects: Holy Switchers](#)
- [Peace must be dared](#)
- [Aid Budget threatened](#)
- [Review: "Mary Meets Mohammad"](#)

April 2013

- [Sitting Down Together](#)
- [God of Life – A Prayer, Draft 1](#)
- [Men & Women in Marriage](#)
- [Abortion: Abortion Bill through House of Assembly](#)
- [Abortion: I spoke out](#)
- [Speaking asylum seekers with our children](#)
- [Petition against Abortion on Demand \(Up to 9 Months\)](#)
- [The Water Ceremony](#)
- [The Salamanca Declaration](#)
- [Abortion Tas: Anglican submission](#)

March 2013

- [Abortion Tas: Hospital Chaplain's perspective](#)
- [Easter Message: Jesus is life and hope](#)
- ["Tasmania, Abortion & Big Brother"](#)
- [Euthanasia: Guidelines a slippery slope](#)
- [Euthanasia: Anglican VAD submission](#)
- [Abortion Law for Tasmania?](#)
- [Eulogy: Peter North](#)
- [Tas Anglican February 2013: God speaks. God speaks life. God speaks life to us. Of Adequate Standard](#)

February 2013

- [Farewell to Russell Morton](#)
- ["My Brittle Bones"](#)
- [Old Testament Seminar - Burnie](#)

January 2013

- [It's not about the bun ...](#)
- [Bushfires Ecumenical prayer](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 16](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 15](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 14](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 13](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 12](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 11](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 10](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 9](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 8](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 7](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 6](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 5](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 4](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 3](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 2](#)
- [16 Days with Jonah: Day 1](#)
- [Bushfires: Media Release](#)
- [Bushfires: 'Reluctant Heroes'](#)
- [Euthanasia: Sad & Salutory](#)
- [Bushfires: Bishop's Pastoral Letter](#)
- [Bushfires: Parish of Hamilton](#)
- [Bushfires: Updates Tasman area](#)
- [Tasmanian Anglican Bushfire Appeal](#)
- [Bushfires: Parish Sorell, Richmond & Tasman](#)
- [Bushfires: City Hall visit](#)
- [Prayer in time of Bushfire](#)
- [Pokie limit dumping: Tasmania loses](#)

December 2012

- [End of the year](#)
- ['Duty of care'?](#)
- [Christmas gift: Prayer in Farsi \(Persian\)](#)
- [Christmas is a love story](#)
- [AMS Christmas message](#)
- [School Chaplain's Christmas](#)
- [God speaks life to us](#)
- [Prayers 'through every stage of life'](#)
- [Anti-Discrimination Exposure Draft - submission](#)
- [Season a time of hope](#)
- [Jesus was ... yet ...](#)
- [God Speaks Life](#)
- [Now that's a crook!](#)
- [Human Rights: Red Light Report](#)
- [Assisted suicide: No room for error!](#)

November 2012

- [Aging Well...](#)
- [Terms of Reference for Royal Commission](#)
- [Solomon Islands & Pacific: Domestic violence](#)
- [National Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse](#)
- [Total eclipse of the sun](#)
- [Euthanasia – rushed policy is bad policy](#)
- [Christians persecuted throughout the world](#)
- [Book: Road to Lower Crackpot](#)
- [Visit to Holy Trinity Launceston](#)
- [Treasures of the Word by Julie Kelley](#)
- ["Four Myths About Doctor-Assisted Suicide"](#)

October 2012

- [My grandmother won First Prize for ...](#)
- [Tasmanian Anglican Articles – October 2012](#)
- [Visit to the Parish of Glenorchy and Moonah](#)
- [Solomon Islands: Channels of Hope for Gender](#)
- [Solomon Islands: Media brief](#)
- [Literature in Argentina](#)
- [Solomon Islands' Trip](#)
- [TasCOSS on Poverty in Tasmania](#)
- [Hobbies of the Clergy #5](#)
- [Grades 6 + 10 Q&A w/- the Bishop](#)
- [Breakfast Club](#)
- [Retired Clergy Luncheon](#)
- [SPCKA – 'Marriage, A Covenant for Life'](#)
- [A Christian response to domestic violence](#)
- [Child slavery](#)
- [St Francis of Assisi Day](#)
- [Bishop on result of Tasmania's Same-Sex Marriage Bill](#)
- [Australian Christian Book Awards Night 2012](#)

September 2012

- [Barnabas the Encourager – A Sermon](#)
- [Christian and Muslim Dialogue](#)
- [Decision Time for the Same-Sex Marriage Bill](#)
- [Anglican Church of Tasmania's Position Statement: Same-Sex Marriage Bill](#)
- [Gays divided on Same-Sex Marriage](#)
- [Book Review: 'A Short History of Christianity'](#)
- [Anglican Spirituality Seminar](#)
- ["Truth, marriage and the threat to religious liberty"](#)
- [Some Comments on Marriage](#)
- [Euthanasia rates in the Netherlands](#)
- [Tasmanian Anglican Articles – August 2012](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #8 \(Welcoming\)](#)
- [Reflecting on Matthew Vines](#)

August 2012

- [Pastoral Care Resources #7 \(Seniors\)](#)
- [A Particular Search for God](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #6 \(Mentoring\)](#)
- ['Prayer is the soul's sincere desire'](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #5 \(Youth\)](#)
- [Parable of the Soils](#)
- [Australian Christian Books of the Year 2012](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #4 \(Listening\)](#)
- [Reflections from Branch Chairman CMS Tasmania](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #3 \(Mental Illness\)](#)
- [Euthanasia: Society's cost saver?](#)
- [Anglicans Urge Parliament to Reject Same-Sex Marriage Legislation](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #2 \(Grief\)](#)
- [Pastoral Care Resources #1 \(The Essentials\)](#)

July 2012

- [Hobbies of the Clergy #4](#)
- [Australian Christian Book of the Year – Shortlist 2012](#)
- [Speaking of Fruit Salad](#)
- ['Bishop undercover' – Part 2](#)
- ['Bishop undercover' – Part 1](#)
- [High Court on Chaplaincy Funding](#)
- [Pokies: Who cares?](#)
- ['How about the right to cry for help?'](#)
- [Tasmanian Synod 2012 - motions](#)
- [Tasmanian Anglican Articles – June 2012](#)
- [Treasurer replies to me via AusAID](#)

June 2012

- [Hobbies of the Clergy #3](#)
- [Happiest Job in the World!](#)
- [Euthanasia Expert in Hobart](#)
- [Bible Society: Live the Light in 25 Words](#)
- [Eulogy: Jill Martin](#)
- [Walk Together](#)
- [C of E Evangelical Council: Marriage](#)
- [Canada & NZ: 'No' to euthanasia](#)
- [Rotunda of Witnesses #9](#)
- [Rotunda of Witnesses #8](#)
- [Synod 2012 Address Audio](#)
- ['Living Between Times' – Synod 2012 Address](#)
- [Redefinition of Marriage: Synod Speaks](#)
- [Living with Grief](#)
- [Tasmanian Anglicans: Order of Australia Awards](#)
- [Fiz the Flying Fox](#)
- [Book Launch: 'Sexegesis'](#)
- [Global Aid Facts](#)

ORDINATIONS AND LICENCES

Ministry Appointments

From Synod 2012 to Synod 2013

God continues to work in our midst, raising up leaders with servant hearts across the Diocese to new roles or to replace those who have retired or left for new positions. Ministry appointments since Synod 2012 include:

Surname	Christian Name	Appointment
BEHRENS	Helen Maree	Licence, Children's Minister (Authorised Lay Minister), Parish of Wellspring
BLYTH	David	Licence, Lay Church Worker, Parish of Wellspring
BOWDITCH	Noel James	Licence, Enabler, Parish of Circular Head
BOWDITCH	Christopher James	Licence, Youth & Young Adults Minister, Wellspring
BOWDITCH	Christopher James	Holy Orders, Deacon
CARNABY	Stephen Russell	Licence, Chaplain to Clarendon Children's Homes Inc
CHAU	Michael	Licence, Minister to the Chinese Congregation (Authorised Lay Minister)
CLERKE	Christopher John	Licence, Priest in Charge (as locum tenens), Parish of the City of Devonport (under review)
CORBAN-BANKS	Edrick	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish of Longford/Perth
COWAN	Margaret	Licence, Associate Chaplain, Royal Hobart Hospital
DIXON	Lesley	Licence, Deacon, Parish of Sandy Bay & Tarooma
DR J-F		Licence, Deacon, Parish of Holy Trinity Launceston
DR J-F		Holy Orders, Deacon
DUMAS	Craig	Licence, Youth Worker, St David's Cathedral
DUMAS	Craig	Licence, Chaplain to the Tasmanian Prison Service
DUNCAN	Ross Lachlan	Licence, Priest in Charge (as Locum Tenens) Parish of Sandy Bay & Tarooma
DUNCAN	Ross Lachlan	Licence, Priest in Charge (as locum tenens) Parish of Sandford
EDMUNDS	Job	Licence, Youth Trainee (Authorised Lay Minister, Parish of Riverlinks
ELLWOOD	Ross Leslie	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish of Glenorchy/Moonah
FITZGERALD	Aileen Mary	Licence, Associate Minister, Parish of Burnie
FOOT	Gregory James	Licence, Priest, Parish of Kingston

ORDINATIONS AND LICENCES

FOOT	Gregory James	Holy Orders, Priest
GEEVES	Bruce Drummond	Authority to Officiate
GEORGE	Donald William	Licence, Priest, Parish of St Leonards
GOODACRE	Andrew John	Licence, Pioneer Minister and Consultant to the Special Ministry District of Launceston North
GRAINGER	Kimberley Joan	Licence, Youth Intern, Parish of St John's Launceston (Authorised Lay Minister)
GRAY	Matthew Charles	Appointment, Canon of the Cathedral Church of St David
HAYNES	David	Licence, Local Ministry Support Team Member, Parish of Channel/Cygnnet
HODGETTS	John Leyton	Licence, Local Ministry Support Team Member, Parish of New Norfolk
HOLE	Carol Lesly	Holy Orders, Deacon
HOLE	Carol Lesly	Licence, Ordained Team Member, Parish of West Tamar
HOOKER	Celia	Licence, Local Ministry Support Team Member, Parish of New Norfolk
JONES	Gregory Alan	Authority to Officiate
KARA	Zarven	Licence, Youth Families Trainee Evangelist, Parish of Kingston (Authorised Lay Minister)
KING	Marilyn Christine	Licence, Deacon, Parish of Glenorchy/Moonah
KNUCKEY	William	Licence, Priest in Charge as locum tenens, Parish of Deloraine
LANGLOIS	John William	Licence, Chaplain to the Parish of Southern Midlands
LE ROSSIGNOL	David Edward	Licence, Associate Priest, Parish of Sandford
LEE	Frank	Licence, Priest, Parish of Latrobe
LEE	Frank	Holy Orders, Priest
LEWIS	David Elliott Courthope Lewis	Conferment, Canon Emeritus
LING	Angus	Licence, Children's & Youth Intern, Wellspring Anglican
LOCK	Margaret Rose	Authority to Officiate
McCALLUM	Lance Christopher	Authority to Officiate
McKAY	Robert William	Licence, Priest in Charge as locum tenens, Parish of Burnie
MEURANT	Gayleen Desley	Licence, Local Ministry Support Team Member, Parish of New Norfolk
MITCHELL	Ronald Bruce	Licence, Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers as locum tenens
NEWPORT	Rosemary	Holy Orders Deacon
NEWPORT	Rosemary	Licence, Deacon, Parish of Northern Midlands

ORDINATIONS AND LICENCES

NEWPORT	Rosemary	Holy Orders, Priest
NEWPORT	Rosemary	Licence, Priest, Parish of Northern Midlands
O'SULLIVAN	Michael Lawrence Chamczuk	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish of the City of Devonport (under review)
PLUMRIDGE	David James	Licence, Deputy Registrar
POLKINGHORNE	Kylie Leonie	Licence, Children & Youth Ministry Trainee (Authorised Lay Minister), Parish of Kingston
PYECROFT	Josephine Margaret	Commission, Chaplain to the Anglican Men's Society
PYECROFT	Josephine Margaret	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish Of Quamby
QUINN	Dennis	Licence, Senior Associate Minister, Parish of Bellerive
RODRIGUES	Joan	Licence, Local Ministry Support Team Member, Parish of Channel/Cygnat
ROGERS-SMITH	David	Licence, Enabler, Parish of Riverlinks
SHAW	Victor Alexander	Licence, Youth Minister (Authorised Lay Minister) Parish of St George's Battery Point
SHAW	Victor Alexander	Holy Orders, Deacon
SHAW	Victor Alexander	Licence, Youth Minister, Parish of St George's Battery Point
SHEPHERD	Kenneth John	Holy Orders Deacon
SHEPHERD	Kenneth John	Licence, Deacon, Team Member, Parish of New Norfolk
SHEPHERD	Kenneth John	Holy Orders, Priest
SHEPHERD	Kenneth John	Licence, Priest, Team Member, Parish of New Norfolk
SILK	Leonie Joy	Holy Orders, Deacon
SILK	Leonie Joy	Licence, Deacon, Parish of Sorell, Richmond & Tasman
SKEAT	Joshua Paul	Licence, Assistant Minister, Parish of Burnie
SMITH	Trevor Stuart	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish of Buckland
SMITH	Trevor Stuart	Licence, Enabler, Parish of Brighton
SOCORRO	Matias	Holy Orders, Deacon
SOCORRO	Matias	Licence, Deacon, Parish of St John's Launceston
SOCORRO	Matias	Holy Orders, Priest
SOCORRO	Matias	Licence, Priest, Parish of St John's Launceston
STANLEY	Robert Edward Gordon	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish of Sandford
STANLEY	Robert Edward Gordon	Licence, Rector, Parish of Sandy Bay and Tarooma
SWEET	Ellen	Licence, Local Ministry Support Team Member, Parish of New Norfolk
THIELE	Christopher Steven	Licence, Priest in Charge, Parish of Latrobe
THIELE	Christopher Steven	Licence, Enabler, Parish of Sheffield

ORDINATIONS AND LICENCES

TONGUE	John Joseph	Appointment, Mission Support Officer, North West Mission Network
TONGUE	John Joseph	Licence, Enabler, Parish of Penguin
TURNER	Heather	Holy Orders, Priest
TURNER	Heather	Licence, Priest, Parish of the City of Devonport
WARD	Andrea Hasenpusch Macnamara	Licence, Priest, Parish of St George's Battery Point

Ordinations as Deacons and Priests

From Synod 2012 to Synod 2013

DEACON

Mrs Rosemary Newport

Mr Kenneth Shepherd

Mr Matias Socorro

Mr Chris Bowditch

Mrs Leonie Silk

Mr Victor Shaw

Ms Carol Hole

Dr J-F

PRIEST

Revd Heather Turner

Revd Frank Lee

Revd Matias Socorro

Revd Kenneth Shepherd

Revd Rosemary Newport

Revd Gregory Foot

GOD OF LIFE - A Prayer - Draft 1*

God, life creator,
we praise you for your majesty, your power,
 your creating word, "Let there be ... and there was".
We praise you for the beauty of all that was made, "and it was good".
Instil in us gratitude for life, for your gift of life.
We thank you for sending us the Word of Life, Your Beloved Son.
God of Life, we praise You.

God, life redeemer,
we praise you for saving us from ourselves
 for your heart to rescue rebels
 for your will to make it be
 for your sacrifice to set us free.
Empower us through your Spirit
 to live free from sin and self
 to live free for life in Christ,
 the Word of Life, our Rescuer and Redeemer.
God of Life, we praise You.

God, life sustainer,
we praise you for upholding the universe
 for indwelling the world you made
 for not abandoning us
 for Christ in whom we live and move and have our being.
Sustain us by your life-giving Spirit
 may the fruit of the Spirit be abundant
 may this abundance flow through our service.
Empower us for your work in your world.
God of Life, we praise You.

May the One who is the way, the Truth and the Life,
 be present in your community of life.
May we be instruments of mercy, peace and justice,
 life-giving servants and faithful stewards of your world.
We pray this in the Name of the Word of Life, Jesus Christ.
God of Life, we praise You. AMEN.

** I think every prayer of mine is a draft prayer: it seems so inadequate.
 May God bless our draft prayer.*