



ANGLICAN MEDIA TASMANIA

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MEDIA RELEASE:

BISHOP HARROWER FORESHADOWS MOVE TO RETIRE

The Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, the Right Reverend John Harrower, has announced his intention to retire on 12 September 2015.

Bishop Harrower has been Bishop of Tasmania since July 2000.

Bishop Harrower said, "Following much prayer and consultation with family, senior colleagues and close friends, I believe God is leading me to draw my ministry as the 11th Bishop of Tasmania to a close in mid-September.

"By then I will be nearly 68, and it will be time to begin a new season of life closer to our extended family in Melbourne."

"Serving as Bishop for the past 15 years has been an amazing privilege, and our love for the people of Tasmania is undiminished. I look forward to the last few months of my ministry here, and pray that God continues to build a church which transforms the lives of Tasmanians."

Bishop Harrower anticipates being able to formally finalise this decision over the next few months. More information about an official farewell service will be available then.

After a Bishop retires, the Church holds a special Synod (gathering of representatives from each parish in Tasmania) to elect a new Bishop.

See the next page for some of Bishop Harrower's significant achievements.

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Some of Bishop Harrower's significant achievements

- Focusing the Anglican community on being a healthy church which transforms lives in Tasmania
- Leading the church into being a sustainable and growing organisation in the 21st Century including:
 - growth in numbers attending church
 - more children, youth and families involved
 - seeing large numbers of local Tasmanians trained and commissioned as church leaders
 - initiating new ministries and models of church in rural areas
 - improving the quality of building facilities and tackling issues around a number of unused or degraded historic buildings
- Implementing a response to the survivors of sexual abuse, including making an apology on his first day as Bishop, offering pastoral support and assistance, and calling for a Royal Commission in 2002
- Bringing a Christian perspective to significant public policy issues, such as problem gambling, refugees, and domestic violence