

Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

3rd Session of the 47th Synod Business Paper: Tuesday 18 September 2007

(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Part 5 of the Synod Business Rules for ordinance procedures.)

1. Devotions will be led by the Rev Dr Mark Thompson: see attached.

2. Minutes of 17 September 2007.

3. Answers to questions

3.1 Mrs Susan Hooke to ask –

The Annual Report to Synod states on page 105 at paragraph 73 that on 23 July 2007, the Standing Committee encouraged the Archbishop –

- (a) to include in the licenses (sic) of deacons their authorisation to assist the presbyter in administering the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper (consistent with the terms of the Ordination Service for Deacons Canon 1985), and
- (b) to include in the licenses (sic) of suitable lay persons their authorisation to assist the presbyter in the ministrations and distribution of the Lord's Supper (consistent with the terms of the Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973).

Has the Archbishop included in any licences issued to deacons or lay persons the authorisations as set out above?

3.2 Mrs Susan Hooke to ask —

The Annual Report to Synod states on page 17 at paragraph 5.3 that –

The Point Community Church at Port Macquarie,
Northern Lakes Evangelical Church on the Central Coast at Gorokan, and
Albury Bible Fellowship

were declared to be affiliated with the Diocese pursuant to clause 4(1) of the Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005.

What are the terms and conditions of each of the agreements entered into with these churches?

3.3 The Rev Chris Albany to ask –

In Anglicare's response to the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, as reported to Synod 2005 and printed in the 2006 Diocesan Year Book it is stated in response to Recommendation 20 that "Anglicare has provided financial assistance to CLAN in the sum of \$5,000 per annum following an initial request in 2002" (Year Book page 552). I therefore ask –

- (a) How many annual payments have been made to CLAN?
- (b) In what years were such payments made?
- (c) What was the amount of each payment?
- (d) Is ongoing assistance to CLAN included in Anglicare's budget for the current year?

3.4 The Rev Peter Sholl to ask –

Could the Archbishop please provide the following information in relation to the partnership of the Sydney Diocese in overseas theological education –

- (a) How many students are currently enrolled in the Moore College PTC program, and of these, how many are in overseas countries?
- (b) How many languages has the PTC been translated into and what are the ongoing and future plans for further translation?
- (c) Since the beginning of 2006, in what overseas locations have Sydney-based Moore College graduates taught 'intensives' of PTC subjects?
- (d) What involvement does the Diocese have in the provision of Bachelor or above theological education for overseas students, particularly students from developing countries?
- (e) Is there a budget for such involvement?
- (f) What strategies or targets does the Diocese have for the provision of theological education beyond our border?

3.5 Mrs Shirley Deeves to ask –

Does Sydney Diocese have any ministry to the refugees at Villawood Detention Centre? If yes, what kind? If not, why not?

3.6 Mr Graeme Marks to ask –

In the years 2006 and 2007, what percentage of parishes had not submitted audited accounts or annual financial returns by the deadline of April 15? What were the percentages at the end of April, May, June, July, August and as at September 14?

3.7 The Rev David Clarke to ask –

Over the past 12 months –

- (a) How many ordained people in the Diocese of Sydney have had their ministry licences suspended or cancelled (either voluntarily or involuntarily)?
- (b) How many of those people were aged under 40?
- (c) How many of those people have been defrocked?

3.8 Mr Jody Trouncer to ask –

Has the Mission Board –

- (a) taken note of issues raised in the feature article 'Your Pastor wears too many hats' (Southern Cross, September 2007), based on the published results of the 2006 National Church Life Survey, as well as related forum topics on the *your.sydney.anglicans.net* website (for example the 'Every Member Ministry' topic) and, if so
- (b) considered whether these issues point to a need for a review of the substantive rules by which churches and parishes are currently administered?

3.9 The Rev Barry Lee to ask –

- (a) In the last 12 months how many official complaints of unacceptable behaviour have been made about clergy or church workers in the diocese and how many of those complaints have been referred to the Professional Standards Unit for investigation?
- (b) Of the complaints made how many have been determined to have no validity or have resulted in no disciplinary action against the clergy or church worker?

- (c) Of those cases that have been referred to the Professional Standards Unit, both those completed and those still in process, what is the duration of each investigation?
- (d) Is it the case that some area deaneries have determined that a person will be stood down from their position immediately on a complaint being made rather than leaving that decision for the deliberation of the Archbishop?
- (e) In the case of an investigation of a member of the clergy or a parish worker, what is the function of a parish recovery team and what is the criteria for the selection of people who serve on a parish recovery team?

3.10 The Rev Canon Sandy Grant to ask –

What, if any provisions have been made by the PSU or Youthworks for the delivery of Safe Ministry Training to people within our churches of non-English speaking backgrounds, and for advice to Ministers and Safe Ministry Representatives about administering safe ministry standards with people of such background?

3.11 The Rev Richard Blight to ask –

- (a) In the last twelve months, how many new full-time Assistant Minister, Lay Stipendiary and Youth or Children's ministry positions have been created in each region? How many of these received significant financial assistance from the regional councils or Archbishop's special curacies? How many such positions have been dis-established or no longer exist (as full-time positions)?
- (b) Do any of the regional councils have specific policies or goals regarding increasing the numbers of full-time workers in their regions or increasing the number of team ministries?

3.12 The Rev Paul Dew to ask –

In regard to the report on the Parishes Special Administration Ordinance 2004 in the supplementary report of Standing Committee, why does the parish of South Sydney not appear in the list of parishes on page 40 that have adopted special administration when the parish requested it in writing on 30 May 2007?

4. Petitions

5. Notices of questions

6. Procedural motions from members

7. The President will invite members to give notice of other motions

8. Calling of motions on the business paper

9. Motions

To be taken today from 3.30pm

9.1 Coogee: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Coogee as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

(Supplementary Report page 45)

(Archdeacon Deryck Howell/The Rev Craig Segafort)

9.2 Cranebrook: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Cranebrook as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

(Supplementary Report page 48)

(The Rev Richard Goscombe/Archdeacon Ken Allen)

9.3 Lidcombe: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Lidcombe as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

(Page 167)

(The Rev Joseph Thiem/Mrs Rigan Wong)

To be taken today at 4.30pm

9.4 Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007

Synod permits the introduction of the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007.

(Supplementary Report page 6)

(Canon Jim Ramsay/The Rev Stephen Semenchuk)

To be taken today after the "Welcome Pack" presentation at 7:00 pm

9.5 Diocesan Policy Statement on Education

That the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education be approved in principle.

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(Dr Bryan Cowling/The Rev Dr Mark Thompson)

To be taken on Wednesday 19 September 2007 from 3.30pm

9.6 Menangle: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Menangle as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

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(The Rev Craig Fulton/Miss Michele Willsmore)

9.7 Newtown with Erskineville: Reclassification as a Parish

Synod assents to the reclassification of Newtown with Erskineville as a parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

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(Archdeacon Deryck Howell/The Rev Peter Rodgers)

To be taken on Wednesday 19 September 2007 at 4:30 pm

9.8 Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007

Synod permits the introduction of the Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007.

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(Mr Robert Tong/Bishop Glenn Davies)

To be taken on Wednesday 19 September 2007 after the Anglicare presentation at 7:00 pm

9.9 Climate change

Synod accepts the emerging scientific consensus that climate change is occurring and supports the need for Christian responses to the potential problems and opportunities that arise from climate change including –

- (a) praying for our world and using every opportunity to speak of the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- (b) Christian ministry to those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as farmers, rural communities, the homeless and refugees;
- (c) the setting of a godly example of good stewardship in our personal and communal lives;
- (d) education of our children about a biblical understanding of creation and our role as its stewards and carers;
- (e) the development and implementation of an environmental policy within each Parish and Diocesan organisation which expresses principles of good environmental stewardship and care; and
- (f) encouraging governments at all levels to take climate change seriously and to make wise policy decisions to deal with its effects.

(Supplementary Report page 25)

(Mr Darren Mitchell/Dr Karin Sowada)

9.10 Government intervention on child abuse

Synod welcomes recent moves by the Federal Government to address problems of child abuse, violence and substance abuse in Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory. Synod wishes to express the following –

- (a) remorse that there has been inaction about these matters for so long and inadequate support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the affected areas;
- (b) concern at the lack of consultation with Aboriginal communities over the Federal Government's legislative package, when so many instances of lack of consultation in the past have led to good intentions being ineffective and damaging, when it is clear that many communities are in fact not dysfunctional;
- (c) commendation of the Bishop of the Northern Territory for his initiative in calling a conference of indigenous Christian leadership on the matter of the intervention;
- (d) support for the stance taken by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Alliance, of which our own Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee is a member, as outlined in NATSICA's policy statement released following a national conference held in Alice Springs in July;
- (e) acknowledgment that child abuse is happening in all communities across Australia and should be addressed as a matter of high priority by the Federal Government and State Governments;
- (f) calls upon the New South Wales Government to give a high priority to addressing the problem of child abuse in this State, and in particular urges the Government to address the issues raised by the report into child abuse in NSW Aboriginal communities entitled *Breaking the Silence* as a matter of urgency;
- (g) commendation of this whole matter to the prayers of all members of the Diocese.

(see NATSICA policy statement circulated on 17 September)

(Archdeacon Deryck Howell/Dr Karin Sowada)

To be taken on Monday 24 September 2007 at 4.30 pm

9.11 Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007

Synod permits the introduction of the Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007.

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(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

To be taken on Monday 24 September 2007 at 8.00 pm

9.12 Theology of Christian assembly

That this Synod,

Thankful to Almighty God for the inheritance of the Book of Common Prayer, and mindful of the biblical injunction for believers to gather together regularly as the Body of Christ –

- (a) asks the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for the next Synod presenting a theology of Christian assembly which can help shape authentic, biblical and Anglican expressions of Sunday services suitable for the contemporary church, and
- (b) asks the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel to review its Sunday Services in consultation with the Doctrine Commission and the Diocese as a whole, and
- (c) requests the Archbishop to appoint a committee to investigate and report on the architecture of buildings for contemporary church with special attention to the impact of technological changes.

(The Rev Canon Sandy Grant)

To be taken on Tuesday 25 September 2007 at 4:30 pm

9.13 National Register Canon

Synod endorses the concept of a national professional standards register of clergy and lay persons including information about child abuse and sexual abuse of an adult but considers that any canon to establish such a register must embody the following –

- (a) if the information included on the register about child abuse and sexual abuse of an adult is not limited to persons who have admitted to or have been found to have committed such abuse, access to the register within a diocese must be limited to –
 - (i) the diocesan bishop (or delegate) and the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese in circumstances where the diocesan bishop proposes ordaining or issuing a licence to a member of clergy or a lay person, and
 - (ii) to the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese for the purposes of electing a bishop of a diocese provided that before any information on the register about a candidate in the election is disclosed by the Director of Professional Standards to the electing synod, nomination committee or Board of Electors, the candidate is given an opportunity to consider whether he wishes to proceed with or withdraw his candidacy,

or, for the purposes of access within this Diocese, must be capable of being limited in this way by ordinance of the Synod or the Standing Committee, and

- (b) the definition of 'abuse' under the canon should be extended to include behaviour which is not 'chaste' within the meaning of *Faithfulness in Service*,

and directs that any canon which does not include the foregoing must not be implemented in any way unless and until the canon is approved by this Synod.

(Mr Neil Cameron)

To be taken on Tuesday 25 September 2007 after the Mission funding presentation at 7:00 pm

9.14 Parish Administration Ordinance

Synod, noting the report from the Ordinance Reform Group about the exposure draft for the Parish Administration Ordinance –

- (a) supports in principle the approach taken in preparing the exposure draft, and
- (b) requests that members provide comments in respect of the exposure draft to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2007, and
- (c) requests that a bill for the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 be brought to the Synod in 2008 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by members about the exposure draft.

(Additional Materials)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration

9.15 Faithfulness in Service

Synod adopts the amendments to the code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers *Faithfulness in Service* as set out in the report entitled 'Amendments to *Faithfulness in Service*' received by the Synod at this session noting that the Standing Committee of the General Synod has approved these amendments and has recommended that these amendments be adopted by all dioceses.

Synod further notes that the effect of this motion is to –

- (a) adopt *Faithfulness in Service* as the voluntary ethical code of conduct for all clergy and church workers in the Diocese, and
- (b) import into the Discipline Ordinance 2006 the amended definitions of *child abuse* and *sexual abuse* for the purposes of that Ordinance.

(Supplementary Report page 15)

(Mr Philip Gerber)

9.16 Lay and diaconal administration of Holy Communion

Synod –

- (a) receives the report concerning lay and diaconal administration of Holy Communion, and
- (b) agrees to consider this report and its recommendations as a matter of priority at the 2008 session of Synod.

(Page 91)

(The Rev Dr Mark Thompson)

9.17 Use of raffles or other games of chance

Synod considers that parishes and diocesan organisations should not use raffles or other games of chance as methods of raising funds.

(Mr Richard Lambert)

9.18 Bishop Martyn Minns

The Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney congratulates Bishop Martyn Minns on his installation as presiding bishop in the Convocation of Anglicans in North America on 5 May 2007 and assures him of our prayers as he, along with many

other faithful men and women, seeks to encourage faithfulness to God and his word amongst American Anglicans.

(Mr Robert Tong)

9.19 **Biblical teaching on Jesus Christ**

Synod affirms the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son truly incarnate as a human being, died in our place, bearing the curse of the Law and paying the penalty for our sin, and by so doing he reconciled us to God, expressed God's determined love for us and accomplished a complete victory over the principalities and powers.

(The Rev Dr Bill Salier)

9.20 **Biblical pattern of marriage**

Synod –

- (a) affirms that the relationship of loving, sacrificial leadership of a husband and the intelligent, voluntary submission of a wife is the Biblical pattern of marriage, and
- (b) totally rejects the use of this Biblical pattern to justify any form of domestic abuse, and
- (c) totally rejects all forms of domestic abuse, and
- (d) expresses its concern for those children, women and men, who are victims of domestic abuse, and
- (e) calls on Christian husbands and wives to use their God-given responsibilities for the good of their families, and
- (f) calls on ministers to teach congregations the Biblical model for marriage and also to teach against domestic abuse.

(Mrs Lesley Ramsay/The Rev Dr Bill Salier)

9.21 **Moore Theological College**

Synod –

- (a) notes the involvement of Moore Theological College in Christian ministry outside of the Diocese, including the running of missions in other dioceses in Australia, the links established with evangelical work in other countries such as Chile, its recent association with the newly established Alexandria Theological School in Egypt and its ever expanding correspondence course provisions in countries such as India, and
- (b) encourages the College to continue to explore ways and means by which it can assist in Christian ministry around the world, particularly with regard to theological education, and
- (c) recognises the need for Christian people of the Sydney Diocese to continue to support the students, staff and faculty of the College in prayer and to provide financial assistance for the work of the College in the years ahead, and
- (d) commends the college's partnership in the teaching of PTC courses in South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, India, Chile and throughout Latin America, and encourages the College to continue to make PTC material available as cheaply as possible in these, and other developing countries, and
- (e) commends parishes in the Diocese to consider "releasing" their clergy to travel overseas for short periods to teach PTC "intensives".

(Dr Barry Newman)

9.22 Fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death

Synod requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of Scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to Synod at a convenient time.

(Dr Barry Newman)

9.23 Ordination of women

Synod notes that –

- (a) within both the Anglican Church of Australia and the wider Anglican Communion there is a diversity of practice in regard to the ordination of women, and
- (b) Synods of this Diocese have consistently voted not to permit the ordination of women as priests, based on the understanding that whilst scripture encourages the ministry of women, it denies the eldership of women in the congregation.

However, Synod also notes that there is another understanding of scripture held by a small but significant minority within the diocese. This understanding holds that scripture supports and endorses women being involved in all aspects of the life and ministry of God's people including eldership of the congregation and so in Anglican Polity being ordained as priests and Bishops. Synod therefore asks the Archbishop to explore ways in which these different views can be creatively lived out in the life and practice of the diocese.

(The Rev Chris Albany/Miss Betty Allan)

9.24 Arch Hart conference

Synod thanks the Northern Region staff for organising and hosting the Arch Hart conference on Personal Challenges in Ministry and affirms that the spiritual and physical health of ministry staff in the churches of our Diocese are important for both the Diocesan Mission and the ongoing of work of the gospel.

(The Rev David Clarke)

9.25 Publishing of ordination lists

Synod requests that the Diocesan Registry publish lists in Southern Cross or on the diocesan website of those proposed to be ordained as deacons or presbyters at least 1 month before the ordination is scheduled to take place. Guidelines are to be provided for appropriate means to respond by those who wish to raise concerns about any of those candidates.

(The Rev David Clarke)

9.26 Responsibilities of Synod members

Synod requests that –

- (a) the Standing Committee be asked to produce a brief paper outlining the role and responsibilities of lay Synod members to be read at each parish service 2 weeks before the vestry meeting electing Synod representatives, and
- (b) Mr Robert Tong's booklet be sent out to those subsequently elected to Synod, and
- (c) within one month of Synod's completion a written summary of Synod's work be presented to all church members attending services over a 2 week period.

(Mr Brian Flower)

9.27 Retirement of the Rev Neil Flower

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev Neil Flower, who retires from Synod at the end of this year, and in particular –

- (a) his faithful ministry as rector of the parish of Thornleigh-Pennant Hills since 1988, especially enabling the consolidation of ministry onto the one site and his support of Chinese ministry, and
- (b) his diligence in his role as Hornsby Area Dean since 2000, and
- (c) his vibrant contribution to the life of this Synod for more than three decades and his representation of the Diocese on the General Synod for 14 years, and
- (d) his former ministry in the parishes of Cabramatta and St Andrew's Wahroonga in the CMS as Youth Secretary, and
- (e) his commitment to the work of the gospel and the glory of God over 42 years of ordained ministry.

Synod expresses its gratitude to Neil and wishes him and his wife Jane God's blessing upon their future life and ministry.

(Bishop Glenn Davies/Archdeacon Terry Dein)

9.28 Displaced persons

Synod –

- (a) notes that there are 25 million displaced persons in the world, 11.5 million of whom are uprooted refugees or asylum seekers with some 7 million of these having been “warehoused” for 10 years or more in refugee camps or urban slums, and
- (b) commends the Australian Government for the humanitarian resettlement component of its immigration program and encourages a significant increase in the number of displaced persons offered resettlement in Australia under that program, and
- (c) calls on the Government to offer resettlement in Australia to the group of Sri Lankan nationals currently held on Nauru whose refugee status has recently been confirmed, and
- (d) endorses a non-discriminatory approach in all aspects of Australia's immigration policy especially its humanitarian component, and
- (e) requests that a copy of this motion be sent to the Parliamentary leader of all political parties represented in the Federal Parliament.

(The Rev Chris Albany)

9.29 Retirement of Mr Rodney Dredge

Synod gives thanks to God for the dynamic, faithful and strategic service of Mr Rodney Dredge as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat from 2001 to 2007, as well as his membership of the Diocesan Standing Committee from 1993 to 2007. In all he has done Rodney has sought to honour God and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in and beyond this Diocese.

During Rodney's time as the Secretariat's Chief Executive Officer, the net assets of the Diocesan Endowment managed by the Glebe Administration Board have grown significantly. It is people, however, not money, that really matter, and Rodney's enduring legacy will be the transformation of the Secretariat, and the people within it, into a dynamic team fully committed to the Diocesan Mission: a team that has become an active supporter of both Parish and organisational ministry, and yet also a team that itself takes the lead in new Diocesan initiatives.

In all this Rodney was, and is still, supported by his loving wife, Jenny, and they remain stalwart members of the Parish of Castle Hill, where, among many other involvements, they were founding members of the Church plant at Oakhill.

Synod thanks God for Rodney's fellowship in the Gospel and prays that God's blessing might rest on Rodney and Jenny for a long and fruitful retirement.

(Dr Laurie Scandrett/Mr Peter Kell)

9.30 ***Ad hoc* theological recitations and summations of Christian doctrine**

Synod notes occasional presentation of motions calculated to emphasise particular aspects of doctrine or affirm certain principles of faith as understood by the respective movers of the motions in question. While acknowledging that such motions are motivated by zeal, Synod respectfully reminds all members that Christian truth is adequately and wholly expressed in scripture and sound doctrine in summarised by the creeds. Again acknowledging the zeal of movers, Synod respectfully suggests that members desist from presenting *ad hoc* formulations of doctrine in the interests of unequivocal understanding, by those inside and those outside the church, that authoritative Christian teaching expressed in definitive terms is to be found in the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles.

(Professor Bernard Stewart)

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Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Tuesday 18 September 2007.

Tuesday 18 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 9.1 Coogee: Reclassification as a Parish 9.2 Cranebrook: Reclassification as a Parish 9.3 Lidcombe: Reclassification as a Parish Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	9.4 Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Presentation on Evangelism Ministries “Welcome Pack” 9.5 Diocesan Policy Statement on Education Thereafter, other business as per the business paper

Wednesday 19 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 9.6 Menangle: Reclassification as a Parish 9.7 Newtown with Erskineville: Reclassification as a Parish Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	9.8 Asbestos Inspection (Special Charge) Ordinance 2007 Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Anglicare presentation on parish partnerships 9.9 Climate change 9.10 Government intervention on child abuse Thereafter, other business as per business paper

Monday 24 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	9.11 Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Missionary Hour
8:00 pm +	9.12 Theology of Christian assembly Thereafter, other business as per business paper

Tuesday 25 September 2007	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	9.13 National Register Canon Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Presentation on Mission funding strategy 9.14 Parish Administration Ordinance Thereafter, other business as per the business paper

3rd Session of the 47th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 18 September 2007

Bible Reading: Galatians 1: 1-10

Bible Reader: The Rev Stefan Bull

Bible Study Leader: The Rev Dr Mark Thompson

¹Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ²and all the brothers with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

¹⁰Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version

Hymn: Teach me your ways

Your way, your way,
is rest for the weary,
freedom for the prisoner.
Your way, your way
is feeding those who hunger,
carrying those who stumble.
And your way was to seek and save the lost.
To bear the sins of the world,
'Til death upon a cross.

Teach me your ways,
I want to walk in truth and righteousness,
teach me your ways,
let your word speak to my heart,
teach me your ways,
and lead me into truth,
until you come again,
teach me your ways

Your way, your way,
is thunder in the desert,
shelter in the tempest.
Your way, your way,
is praying "Father forgive them,
for they know not what they do"
and your way was to seek and save the lost.
To bear the sins of the world,
till death upon a cross.

Teach me your ways,
I want to walk in truth and righteousness,
teach me your ways,
let your word speak to my heart,
teach me your ways,
and lead me into truth,
until you come again,
teach me your ways
(repeat).

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Pianist: The Rev Canon Peter Stavert

Prayer: Dr Philip Selden

The Mission Prayer

Almighty God

We call upon you for such an outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon us, that we as your people may be assured of your love through your word, seek to please the Saviour in all things, manifest the godly life and be filled with prayerful and sacrificial compassion for the lost in all the world.

In the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.