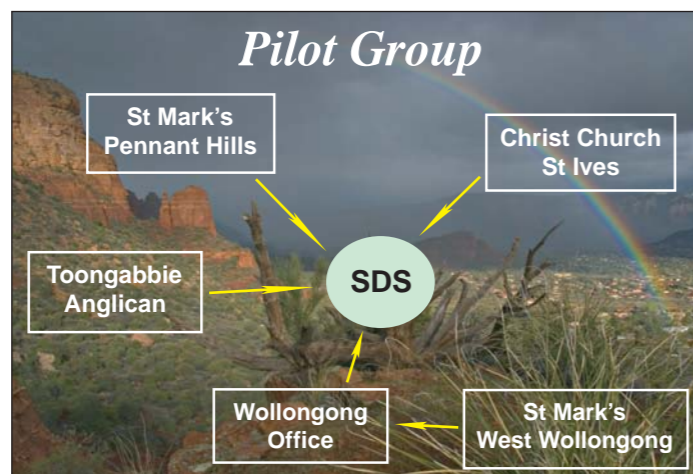


Diary Dates

- September 8**
Finance Committee meeting
- September 13**
ALCO meeting
Glebe Australia Ltd meeting
- September 14**
Finance & Loans Board meeting
Car Board meeting
- September 16**
Church Property Trust meeting
- September 21**
Secretariat Board meeting
- September 26**
Mission Taskforce meeting
Mission Property Committee meeting
New Capital Project meeting
Standing Committee meeting
- October 6**
Finance Committee meeting
- October 7**
Church Property Trust meeting
- October 10-11**
Synod meets
- October 11**
Compliance Committee meeting
- October 17-18**
Synod meets

Pilot for IT initiative



This pilot group will undertake the first steps in developing a Diocesan Anglican-wide Network (DAWN).

In June's edition of *SDS News*, we prepared a special one-page insert on the future shape of our technology function. As this is such a burgeoning area, we include another brief update on our progress.

George Lymbers' IT team has engaged some parishes as a pilot group to help us as we examine a number of technology areas.

The pilot group will be reviewing four key areas of technology support: mobile phones for clergy and parish office personnel, commercial-grade broadband internet services, voice-over internet telephony and web-site hosting & content management. Each

of these areas represents exciting developments for both SDS and the parish community, with substantial cost savings and a greatly increased range of services on offer. Recently we have assisted St George's Engadine with telephony as part of their rebuilding project.

The pilot group will focus on:

- Setting up and testing the various technical processes and equipment
- Assessing the working relationships of the various suppliers
- Gathering feedback on how each service interacts with the others
- Assessing possible future infrastructure needs of SDS and the Diocese
- Gaining further understanding of the specific content requirements at the local parish level
- Monitoring the various cost structures
- Monitoring the effectiveness of video conferencing between a regional office and St Andrew's House

To find out more, provide feedback or track the ongoing progress of the pilot group, visit www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/pilot

Andrew Tilsley
Manager,
Corporate Services



From the CEO

The middle of the year was always going to be a period of hard work for us all. Not only are there important accounts to prepare and reporting deadlines to meet, but we also have to finalise masses of material for the forthcoming Synod. The 'business' of SDS/GAB just keeps going and as you all know there is a constant hum of activity in our routine day-to-day work.

The main task that I face every day involves direction and alignment. My role is to focus the 'business' on common objectives and to ensure that we are not diverted by so-called good ideas. To maintain direction and alignment requires absolute clarity in vision and I have to say that, for one reason or another, that vision has become a little blurred lately. The main reason is, I expect, that we have all been extremely busy – perhaps a little too busy. We are moving forward on so many major fronts that there is a danger that we will lose clarity in our vision and thus confuse our objectives.

A CEO's main task is to communicate vision so that well-trained people can develop their roles in the context of that vision. We are not a prescriptive organisation - we do not specify the fine detail of what each person has to do. We encourage open thinking and personal expression in what we do. Many of our major reforms have developed from the input of our employees. To continue, a clear vision is critical.

So, remember the word 'vision' - you will be hearing it more often.

Rodney Dredge

St Andrew's House spruces up!

A redevelopment of St Andrew's House will make life easier for visitors and tenants.

One of the major benefits to flow from re-signing the Australian Bureau of Statistics to their lease of Levels 3, 4 and 5 of St Andrew's House is the improvement that we will see in the way we present ourselves to the city of Sydney.

The big change will be to the foyers. A new foyer will be created for St Andrew's Cathedral School. It will face the Cathedral and will provide tighter security and closer supervision of students as they move between major venues.

Concurrently the 'business and church' tenants will be serviced by a new foyer through the area previously occupied by the bar. This will give us an obvious and user-friendly square level entrance to our church

offices, something seriously lacking in the building today.

If finances permit, we hope to extend the refurbishment to the whole of the ground floor and to levels 1 and 2. Early planning suggests that a ground floor Cowper Room would work very well and would allow that important facility to be modernised in furniture and technology.

The 'church' offices on levels 1 and 2 have never been fully refurbished and have become tired and inefficient. Plans drawn show that a whole new 'feel' can be developed by opening up our space and by including modern facilities and technology. The big hurdle will be funding and the property team under Michael Cambridge and Sharyn Miller are working on this now.



The design for the new St Andrew's House lobby, which will give the Sydney Diocesan offices a new face.

Database to help growth

In June and July, the New Capital Project database was introduced to regional areas at briefings held throughout the Diocese. The database has played a crucial part in the New Capital Project so far, allowing valuable data to be collected, and then displayed and analysed.

Database Manager Peter Peters says the database has been crucial in helping the team to come up with a pilot group for the next stage of the project. "The database has helped us to make the process transparent," he says. Web consultant Ralph Lawson-Smith adds, "it has

given us an objective measure of the use of facilities in the Diocese."

A large amount of the information on the database has been collated from internal sources such as the Property Management System, while Peter and Consultant Warren Stanley have collected additional information from parishes specifically for the Project.

The database will allow the Episcopal team and Secretariat staff to understand what is actually happening across the Diocese in a faster, clearer and more accessible way than has ever been possible before.

Database Manager Peter Peters is excited about the database's potential, which extends beyond the New Capital Project to an asset register for the whole Diocese.



Database Manager Peter Peters (left) and Web Consultant Ralph Lawson-Smith explore options for the database.

SDS travels the world

Is the world getting smaller? Ask some of our staff who have recently ventured abroad. Portfolio Accountant Helena Zugec travelled to Sweden and Croatia in May to visit family and managed to take in



Helena Zugec in Sweden

some of the surrounds. She was especially amazed by the unique architecture and friendliness of the people, and says the experience of travelling made her more aware of God's presence and plan. "With everything that has been happening in the world, you really see that God looks after you if you let Him."

Staff Recognition Award winner Brian Connelly put his travel voucher prize towards a trip to Canada to visit his mother and brothers in Toronto. His travels took him through the Rocky Mountains, to Niagara Falls and the Calgary Stampede and gave him the unexpected pleasure of seeing a black

bear on the side of the road as he was stuck in traffic!

Management Accountant Ian Sharpe's travels through France and Italy gave him a new appreciation of art and architecture. Highlights were the palace of Versailles, the Eiffel Tower and the art of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. While he was able to see some significant landmarks in Christian history, such as the Appian Way, Ian was also struck by the lack of theologically accurate representations in the art he saw. "Among much Christian symbolism, there was not much Christianity," he says.

SDS lightens up!



"No, Jim. They're the toilets, not your new workstation."



85% cocoa not a good idea for these three!



Yummy yummy yummy. Tummy tummy tummy!



SDS wants Moore!

SDS staff have recently been delighted with the news that Corporate Secretary Andrew Sillar will be studying full time at Moore Theological College next year for a Diploma of Bible & Missions. This course will involve studying the Old Testament and New Testament, but Andrew is most excited about the mission subjects, which will look at the history and background of mission as well as contemporary thought about mission.

Andrew has had supportive



Andrew Sillar

and encouraging comments from staff since the announcement and has possibly already inspired some to follow suit. "Some have congratulated me and then added that they would love to do something similar." Andrew says the exposure his job as Corporate Secretary has given him to the Diocesan Mission has made him think more about how he could contribute.

Andrew is not the only SDS staff member with Moore in his sights. General Manager, Parish Services Mark Payne achieved a distinction in his Preliminary Theological Certificate (PTC) and CEO Rodney Dredge graduated with a Certificate in Theology (Hons) in May. Consultant Warren Stanley also has a Certificate in Theology.

Customer Service Representative Juliet Wenden is undertaking a Diploma of Bible Studies, which she says has increased her confidence to answer people's questions and weave God into her conversations. "It's made me more relaxed about answering questions about God because I can



(L to R) James Cartwright, Mark Payne, Rodney Dredge, Amanda Lee, Warren Stanley and Juliet Wenden.

tailor my answer to suit the ears of the person I'm talking to," she says. Juliet says this study helps her to support her husband Richard, currently studying full-time at Moore.

Portfolio Manager, Equities, Amanda Lee is also completing her PTC, although she is currently taking a break as she prepares for the birth of her first child in September. Amanda has appreciated the insight of different lecturers and believes the study is a good investment. "When I make ethical investment decisions at work, I'm not just considering

what the world sees, but I'm adding a Christian perspective as well."

Assistant Secretary, Anglican Church Property Trust, James Cartwright is also studying for his PTC, which he is thoroughly enjoying and has found the subjects he has done so far have given him a great overview of the Bible. He says this study has helped him in leading church services and Bible studies and in encouraging fellow Christians. "Any extra insight helps us to be living, talking and breathing ambassadors for Jesus," he says.

Welcome aboard! Steven Holm

Steven Holm joined SDS in July as a Portfolio Accountant in the Investment Accounting team, working on bank requisitions and pricing for the retail and mezzanine funds, as well as the Fiducian trade fund.

Steven's background is in sales and customer service and he is excited about the prospect of being involved in funds management. He is enjoying being a part of the Investment Accounting team and has appreciated the help and patience of his colleagues as he has settled in.



Working in a Christian environment is a new experience for Steven and he says he has noticed the difference, especially in an industry that can be compromising for a Christian. He appreciates the ethical approach that SDS takes, especially the practice of opening meetings in prayer. "Christianity and finance go well together here - you know

not to expect anything other than straight down the line," he says.

Steven is an active member of Christ Church Mortdale and has served there as a youth group leader and, more recently, helped to run the *Introducing God* course.



Sydney Diocesan Secretariat
Level 2, St Andrew's House, Sydney Square, NSW, 2000
PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office, NSW, 1230

Editor: Natasha Percy
Telephone: (02) 9265 1627
Facsimile: (02) 9261 4485
Email: editor@glebegroup.com.au

SDS News

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Gearing up for Synod

The lead-up to Synod is always hectic for the Legal Services team, but this year will be the busiest on record for new Diocesan Secretary Robert Wicks. Robert is working closely with Archbishop Peter Jensen, Registrar Dr Philip Selden and others as the Archbishop prepares to recast the Diocesan Mission at Sydney Town Hall and Synod draws closer.

"I'm excited about Synod and I trust that others will share my excitement," he says. "There are a number of significant proposals on the agenda which are being driven by the Diocesan Mission." He is quick to point out, however, that Synod is not where the Mission primarily happens: "It's at the coalface, with the work of the parishes, and it would be great if our parishes could come away from Synod this year encouraged to press on."

Robert's PA Nerida Paul is assisting him, ensuring all papers and reports are properly laid out and amended for 2005 and the venues are adequately set up. "There is a lot involved in preparing for Synod," she says. Robert insists that the input of every member of his department

makes his role easier. "It's all hands on deck, because Synod is an expression of who we are as a Diocese, so we want to make sure it is helpful and encouraging."

Martin Thearle is also working towards Synod in his role as secretary of the Finance Committee of the Mission Taskforce (MTF).

The MTF has been preparing spending estimates in the four policy areas of the Diocesan Mission - which include prayer and gospel work outside the Diocese, expanding, planting and supporting congregations and multiplying workers - as well as amendments to Parish Cost Recoveries. "The presentation of these matters does get quite a bit of attention and, being about money, it is always sensitive," Martin says.

Bishop Peter Tasker says presenting this work in our first full triennium budget means those in ministry in these four areas can plan ahead as they learn of the funding they will receive over the next 3 years. Working the financial side out now will allow Synod discussion next year to focus on ministry strategy. "The aim is then for money



New Diocesan Secretary Robert Wicks is working hard to ensure that Synod, which will begin at Sydney Town Hall this year, runs smoothly.

not to be the top topic of every Synod," Peter says.

According to Peter, Martin's work has helped the Committee to keep their policies in line with the aims of the Diocesan Mission.

"Martin keeps reminding us of the big picture and pulls it all together on paper," he says. "If we start to wander off the track, he is the one who calls us back."

Synod Dates

Monday, October 10
Town Hall, Sydney Square

Tuesday, October 11
Wesley Theatre, Pitt Street

Wednesday, October 12
Wesley Theatre, Pitt Street

Monday, October 17
Wesley Theatre, Pitt Street

Tuesday, October 18
Wesley Theatre, Pitt Street

passion in profile Robyn Manning

Position: Secretary/Personal Assistant to the Church Property Trust



What does your job involve?

I assist Martin Thearle and James Cartwright with Church Property Trust matters, including contracts, payments and financial reporting by the parishes.

What motivates you?

I like working in a Christian environment where everyone's input is valued. We're all working

towards the common goal of serving our Lord, and because we've got that common goal, people are not focussing as much on their own personal gain as in the commercial world. Funnily enough, I started here for 12 months, and I'm still here after 7 years. I am happy working here!

How do you express your faith outside work?

I attend St Barnabas' Anglican Church, Ingleburn, with my husband and have been there for 2 years now, having been part of Glenquarie Anglican Church before that. I'm part of a Bible Study group and I try to live my life from a Christian perspective and honour God in all that I do.

