

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Annandale (St Aidan's) to a parish

(A report from the South Sydney Regional Council)

Initiation of Proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the churchwardens of the provisional parish of Annandale under clause 4(1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the South Sydney Regional Council held on 23 August 2006 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the ordinance. Council certified that all requirements under clauses 4, 5 and 6 have been complied with and recommends that the provisional parish of Annandale becomes a parish from 1 January 2007.

Proposal

3. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Annandale (St Aidan's) to the parish of Annandale.

4. The provisional parish has applied for a change in classification following its steady growth in membership and ministry in recent years.

Parish Information

5. Annandale Anglican church was founded in 1894 through the initiative of the rector of All Souls at Leichhardt and a number of local Annandale Christians. Its heyday was in the 1960's when there was a Sunday School of hundreds and a vibrant community life. The church has been in decline over the last few decades and the ministry unfortunately set back by some instances of sexual immorality. The parish was facing closure when its part-time minister retired at the end of 2001.

6. Under a bold new proposal a 'merger' was negotiated with the 'Christians in the Media' ministry founded and led by (now) the Rev Dominic Steele. With encouragement from Archdeacon Trevor Edwards the St Aidan's building was substantially renovated for modern church use, while still retaining essential marks of its history. There are now two Sunday church meetings, the morning one involving an emphasis on outreach to the local community and the evening one to the media community (although there are now some media workers in the morning and locals in the evening).

7. Under Dominic Steele's leadership there has been rapid growth, much of it by conversion. There are now 150 adults in church on Sundays and a parish staff of Dominic, plus an assistant minister Rev Andrew Barry, women's pastor, Cath Semple, and administrator/accounts staff.

8. The parish has given birth and is home to the growing evangelistic ministry "Introducing God" which is now being used in more than 2000 Australian Churches. It has its own full-time manager. As well, the associated network media ministry is having a growing impact in the media community.

9. The 2001 ABS Census gave a total population for the area of Annandale as 8,231 people, of which 1354 (16.5%) claimed Anglican affiliation. The presence of the Anglican Church has increased in the parish area over the last 5 years, so this is likely to be higher.

10. The parish staff consists of –

- Minister - Dominic Steele
- Assistant Minister - Andrew Barry
- Women's Minister - Cath Semple
- Assistant Minister responsible for training and managing Introducing God - Andre Wheeley
- MTS trainees in our associated *Christians in the Media* network ministry - Andrew Laird, Christine Desira, Samantha Leary, Sam Russell, Jen Chow
- Student Ministers - Peter Boyd, Liz McQueen
- Administrator /Accountant - Marnie Pearce

11. Sunday attendance is 150 adults and 30 children as follows –

Annandale Community Church (Sunday Morning):	50 adults, 30 under 15yo
Christians in the Media Church (Sunday Evening):	100 adults

12. Other parish activities include many home groups, Kids Club and seniors' ministry a strong relationship through scripture teaching at Annandale Public School, annual parish missions (in Annandale in 2004 & 2005 and to Bathurst in 2006) and a significant media community evangelistic and teaching ministry both in this city, nationally and internationally. The parish gives significantly to missions both within and outside Australia in terms of both people and resources.

Future plans

13. The provisional parish has as its goals: to bring glory to God by Building God's People; to reach out to the neighbourhoods of both the Inner West district and the Media community; and to impact the Australian Nation. It is on track to becoming a church family of 1000 adult members by 2016; it plans to increase its regular missions (50 members took a week off work last December for this) and Introducing God courses (four courses a year for several years now), and out reach to the media community; it is encouraging writers, editors and producers into gatekeeper roles and also to be producing resources that are explicitly Christian for Christians in the Media or others to publish.

14. To help in accomplishing this end the parish is beginning a major building project, God willing, at the end of this year, which will double the size of the auditorium, increase office space and improve toilets, kitchen and children's facilities.

Particulars of Church Trust property

15. Details of property held by the Property Trust upon trust for the provisional parish are as follows: (All properties are located at the corner of Booth and Johnston Sts Annandale)

		Building	Contents	Totals
St Aidan	Garage	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000
	Church (1892)	\$3,065,000	\$435,000	\$3,500,000
	Hall (Say 1955)	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000
	Rectory (1892 & 1905)	\$564,000	\$0	\$564,000
	Columbarium	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
	Total	\$4,402,000	\$435,000	\$4,837,000

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments

16. A summary of the financial position over the last three years and some notes about finances in 2006 are set out below –

Income	2003	2004	2005
Offerings & Donations	\$83,410.00	\$119,431.28	\$222,494.18
Donations for Parish	\$1,898.00	\$11,320.00	\$526.00
Received for Others	\$0.00	\$12,234.00	\$3,559.55
Grants	\$59,707.00	\$114,615.74	\$87,500.00
Finance Income	\$548.00	\$408.13	\$992.15
Total Income	\$145,563.00	\$258,009.15	\$315,071.88
Expenses			
Stipends & Salaries	\$112,702.00	\$184,876.29	\$193,326.88
Staff expenses	\$5,189.00	\$8,074.09	\$10,494.88
Parish Cost Recoveries	\$9,606.00	\$21,680.24	\$21,686.48
Resources	\$1,080.00	\$945.13	\$2,907.94
Resources for Worship	\$502.00	\$295.54	\$535.07
Parish Donations	\$742.00	\$391.49	\$8,559.55

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Parish Administration	\$28,677.00	\$47,203.69	\$56,658.52
Property Exp (Parish use)	\$110,968.00	\$30,307.07	\$35,600.72
Total Expenses	\$269,466.00	\$293,773.54	\$329,770.04

17. In 2006 the parish is heading towards a giving budget – “Offerings and Donations” of \$272,000.
18. General giving is above last year but slightly behind target. To balance this however they have just held a major vision project for their new building, which has raised \$140,000 (in the bank so far) with pledges still to come in over the next three years to take the total given locally for the parish's new building project to \$785,000.
19. The parish has a loan with the Finance and Loans Board for renovations to St Aidan's Church in 2002 with a balance outstanding at the end of 2005 of just over \$215,000.
20. Archdeacon Deryck Howell supports the application.

Recommendation

21. The South Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Annandale (St Andrew's) becomes a parish from 1 January 2007.

For and behalf of the South Sydney Regional Council.

DERYCK HOWELL

Archdeacon of South Sydney

24 August 2006