

## **Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000**

### **Statement by the Archbishop concerning the withholding of assent**

On 4 December 2000 the Standing Committee of the Synod received the following advice from Archbishop Goodhew in relation to the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000 -

"I return this Ordinance to the Synod for further consideration. It is part of a package of Ordinances and I believe should be agreed to along with the others that make up the package.

I also take the opportunity to express my concern about an Ordinance that deals with significant issues connected with the life of a parish from which the Archbishop and those whom he appoints to assist parishes in their life and growth are deliberately excluded.

The Archbishop is the chief pastor of the diocese and by virtue of that office has a profound interest in what happens in each of the parishes in his diocese. I appointed experienced parish clergymen as Regional Bishops with the chief aim of providing encouragement and help to parishes. I am disappointed to think they are purposefully locked out of any contact with the process envisaged in the Ordinance. If clergy and church leaders want their bishops and archdeacons to be pastors rather than bureaucrats I ask them to consider what sort of message is being sent by seeking to exclude them from any knowledge of a parish review.

I fully appreciate the reasoning that has given the Ordinance its present shape. I give praise to the promoters for doing all they can to establish a culture in which reviews are undertaken. I know and understand the concerns that clergy have about bishops knowing too much about what is going on in a parish. I rather hoped we might be moving away from the sort of 'them and us' approach. I appreciate that it is always open for a clergyman to share the review with his bishop or archdeacon if he feels he wishes to do so. However I have wanted to create a culture where bishops and archdeacons are seen as the sort of people clergy could count on for support and encouragement. I hope my concerns will be given some consideration when the matter returns to the floor of the Synod.

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I think my successor should have the opportunity to be involved in the passage of this Ordinance. If I were continuing, and the Synod chose to pass the Ordinance again in its present form after hearing my concerns, I would assent to its passage.”.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE  
*Diocesan Secretary*

3 April 2001