

## Proposal to reclassify the provisional parish of Petersham as a parish

(A report of the South Sydney Regional Council.)

### Initiation of Proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the minister of the Provisional Parish of Petersham under clause 4(1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the South Sydney Regional Council held on 22 September 2004 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the Ordinance.

3. The South Sydney Regional Council certifies that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with, and recommends that the Synod raise the status of the provisional parish to parish.

### Details of the Proposal

4. The proposal is to change the Provisional Parish of Petersham to the Parish of Petersham.

5. The Provisional Parish has applied for a change in classification following the growth in membership and ministry in the Petersham area.

### Parish Information

6. Anglican ministry in Petersham began in April 1860 but it was not until 1871 that All Saints' church was erected. The ministry of the parish flourished for nearly 100 years but, for various reasons, the church was in steep decline up until the early 1990s. Since that time, under God, growth has been taking place and the ministry of the gospel is being re-established in this part of Sydney.

7. The Provisional Parish employs a minister, an MTS trainee, three student ministers and also has on its staff two unpaid student ministers.

8. There are increasing numbers of lay people who play active parts in ministry in the parish.

9. The parish is currently engaged in two partnerships with other Bible-based churches.

10. A youth ministry partnership with Petersham Baptist Church was commenced to address the youth ministry issues facing each church and, more specifically, to provide a ministry to young people in the local area. This is progressing well.

11. The second partnership is with FEVA (Fellowship for Evangelism in the Visual Arts) which runs as one of its ministries Petersham Evening Church. This partnership began under the previous incumbent, but was cemented more firmly in place by the desire of the present minister of All Saints' and the leader of FEVA to work together. Both the parish and Feva benefit in a number of ways including a financial benefit, but as well Petersham Evening Church ministers to All Saints' in providing staffing for Sunday school and youth work while All Saints' provides staffing and other support for FEVA's evening service.

12. There is a detailed ministry and site plan in place and under continual review. There are many areas of ministry in which this church is being revitalised, including Sunday school, youth group, women's and men's ministries, support of overseas missionaries, the training of ministry candidates, Asian ministry and seniors ministry.

13. The Provisional Parish currently has 112 regular adult worshippers and 63 children with average attendances being as follows -

Service time	No. of adults	No. of children
8.30 am	12	
10.15 am	100	63

14. All Saints', as mentioned above, is in a formal partnership with Petersham Evening Church, an independent evangelical church plant of FEVA. This congregation has 57 members.

15. Thus the All Saints' church site sees Christian ministry to at least 232 souls each week.

**Parish population**

16. In summary, as at the 2001 ABS Census, there were 5,878 people living in 2,165 families in the parish and 1,688 single persons living within the parish.

**Particulars of church property**

17. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the Provisional Parish of Petersham are as follows -

<b>Asset</b>	<b>Value \$</b>
Land	1,200,000
Church	3,023,000
Rectory	1,009,000
Parish halls	2,139,000
Church contents	925,000
Rectory contents	5,000
Halls contents	80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,381,000</b>

*Special note*

18. All Saints' church building has recently qualified for \$1.5 - \$2 million worth of Commonwealth funding under the Sydney Aircraft Noise and Insulation Project. The purpose of the project is to insulate the church from aircraft and street noise. It is managed for the Commonwealth by United KG. Under the proposal, the roof will be refurbished, the windows double-glazed and the church air tempered. Further, the walls will be reinforced to cope with the extra load. As at September 2004, the project's development

19. As a result of pre-existing faults to some supports to the roof, All Saints' has agreed to pay \$17,000 to the Commonwealth for the rectification of these faults concurrent with the project. Diocesan heritage funds have been secured for this. The faults are only of concern to the contractors under high wind or seismic conditions. As a precaution and to avoid any liability, the wardens have decided that the church should meet in the church hall until the project is complete.

**Summary of consolidated receipts and payments**

20. A summary of the financial position over the last two years and the budget for 2004 is set out below-

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2002 \$</b>	<b>2003 \$</b>	<b>Budget 2004 \$</b>
Receipts	66,823	88,550	99,996
Special services	1,630	900	-
Grants	15,091	7,494	-
Finance income	706	1,399	1,080
Other income	1,552	250	-
Trading activities	13,335	11,265	11,180
<b>Totals</b>	<b>99,137</b>	<b>109,858</b>	<b>112,256</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2002 \$</b>	<b>2003 \$</b>	<b>Budget 2004 \$</b>
Ministry staffing	64,305	82,900	85,970
Parish cost recoveries	10,389	12,120	13,861
Resources for ministry	3,319	2,139	2,314
Parish donations	4,191	1,796	8,980
Parish administration	2,660	5,164	5,421
Parish property expenses	12,888	7,383	9,519
Other payments	-	725	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97,751</b>	<b>112,227</b>	<b>126,065</b>

**Summary of assets and liabilities**

21. Summary of assets and liabilities of the Provisional Parish as at 31 December 2003 -

	<b>\$</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	21,264
Debtors	1,819
Other assets	500
Investments	26,852
Building contents, furniture and equipment	1,010,000
Buildings	6,171,000
Land	1,200,000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8,431,435</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Payables	5,335
New taxes summary	1,017
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,352</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>8,425,083</b>

22. The Bishop of South Sydney and his Archdeacon strongly support the application.

**Recommendation**

23. That Synod assent to the proposal for the formation of the Parish of Petersham as from 1 January 2005.

For and on behalf of the South Sydney Regional Council

D K HOWELL  
Archdeacon

23 September 2004