

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Malabar to a parish

(A report of the South Sydney Regional Council.)

Initiation of proposal

1. A proposal is being made to the Archbishop by the minister and churchwardens of the provisional parish of Malabar (St Mark's, Malabar and St Andrew's, Phillip Bay) under clause 4(1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Details of meeting

2. Under the provisions of the Meetings (Quorum, Attendance and Resolutions) Ordinance 2007 5(1), the South Sydney Regional Council have considered a proposal under clause 5 of the Parishes Ordinance without meeting.

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 provisional parish of Malabar becomes a parish from 1 January 2012.

Proposal

4. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Malabar to the parish of Malabar.

Parish information

5. In 1950 St Mark's became a full parish. However since 1990 the parish has been provisional. For many years the parish was able to support a full-time minister only through offertories supplemented by income from church property.

6. However a substantial change took place in July 2005, when the Asian Australian Bible Church (AABC) merged with the existing St Mark's parish and the Rev Andrew Moore became curate-in-charge of the parish. AABC had begun as the Vietnamese Bible Fellowship at UNSW under the leadership of Andrew Moore in 1995. By 2005 it had grown to 80 regular members and was looking for a new location in the Eastern Suburbs. Under the guidance of Bishop Robert Forsyth and Archdeacon Deryck Howell the two churches were introduced and then merged.

7. The merger between AABC and the 'old' St Mark's, Malabar has seen a transformation of ministry within the parish. Vibrant and growth-focused ministries are being conducted by both staff, and more significantly, parishioners. While some who live at a greater distance from Malabar have left to attend more local churches, others have joined the St Mark's family. There has been a steady shift from a very network / uni-style church to a somewhat more local parish-based ministry. The last five years have been a time of very positive growth, even though it has not resulted in greater numbers within the church.

8. Very soon after the merger the Rev Gordon Boughton became senior assistant minister in the parish. The appointment of Simon Chaplin as a third full-time staff member in 2009 was a key strategic goal that has seen a significant boost to ministry. While the position was initially made possible by a grant from the South Sydney Regional Council, the grant has been phased down so that in 2011 Simon Chaplin is almost entirely funded by the parish. In February 2011 the Rev Simon Roberts commenced as curate-in-charge.

9. Average adult attendance at St Mark's is currently:

8:45am	30
10:00am	45
5pm	35

Future plans

10. The specific avenues the parish is pursuing to reach its local community include a morning playgroup, Kids Plus (an after-school group for primary-aged children) and better gospel ministry to local nursing homes.

Particulars of church property

11. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the Provisional Parish are as follows:

	<i>Value of land and Improvements</i>
Land	\$2,989,000
Building: church	\$1,610,000
Building: rectory	\$306,000
Building: parish halls etc.	\$2,099,000

12. There is a building available for use by a congregation and a residence, both in good condition and state of repair, suitable for the purposes to which they are to be put.

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments

13. A summary of the financial position over the past three years is set out below:

	2008	2009	2010
Receipts	\$	\$	\$
Offertories & Donations	\$158,738	\$193,019	\$197,778
Received for Others	\$4,035	\$2,640	\$3,300
Grants	\$0	\$25,992	\$24,933
Finance Income	\$5,559	\$2,527	\$1,722
Other Income	\$2,398	\$5,168	\$3,996
Trading Activities - excess	\$99,221	\$99,327	\$106,486
Receipts from within the parish	\$2,146	\$2,452	\$2,083
Total	\$272,098	\$331,125	\$340,298

	2008	2009	2010
Expenditure	\$	\$	\$
Ministry Staff	\$134,053	\$188,692	\$180,921
Parish Cost Recoveries	\$34,458	\$43,275	\$43,449
Resources for Ministry	\$11,422	\$8,151	\$6,310
Parish Donations	\$11,827	\$10,588	\$11,289
Parish Administration	\$33,675	\$36,485	\$33,500
Parish Property & Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$50,289	\$68,082	\$71,626
Other Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Trading Activities - deficiency	\$7,731	\$0	\$3,336
Payments within the Parish	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$283,453	\$355,273	\$350,431

14. The parish supports the Box and Mullins families and Andrew Buchanan (CMS missionaries).
15. The parish has no outstanding debts.
16. The Bishop of South Sydney strongly supports this application.

Recommendation

17. The South Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Malabar be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2012.

For and behalf of the South Sydney Regional Council.

ROBERT FORSYTH
Bishop

20 September 2011