

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Terrey Hills to a parish

(A report of the Northern Region Council.)

Proposal

1. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Terrey Hills to the parish of Terrey Hills.

Recommendation

2. The Northern Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Terrey Hills be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 July 2021.

Support of the Northern Region Council

3. On 22nd August 2018 the Northern Region Council resolved to support the request that the Provisional Parish of Terrey Hills be created under the provisions of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979* and that the Council's in principle support be given to the provisional parish, once created, moving to full parish status as quickly as possible.
4. The Regional Council had hoped that St Paul's might make a presentation to the 2020 Synod however COVID-19 restrictions prevented the Synod from meeting and the opportunity was missed.
5. It is the Council's hope that the May 2021 session of Synod might allow St Paul's to be classified as a full parish, with an effective date of 1st July 2021.

Parish information

6. St Paul's Terrey Hills became a provisional parish on 1 January 2019 after separating from the Parish of Christ Church St Ives.
7. St Paul's Anglican Church is based in Terrey Hills which has an estimated population of just over 3,000 people, of which 27% claim an affiliation with the Anglican Church. Unlike many parts of the Diocese, the church serves an area that is remarkably "religious". According to the 2016 census only 5% of the population claims no religious affiliation. 54.9% of the people living in Terrey Hills are over the age of 15 and who identify as being in the labour force are employed full time, 37.2% are working on a part time basis. Terrey Hills has an unemployment rate of 2.9%.
8. The main occupations of people living in Terrey Hills are:
 - (a) Professionals (25.9%)
 - (b) Managers (16.6%)
 - (c) Clerical and administrative workers (15.6%)
 - (d) Technicians and trades workers (15.4%)
 - (e) Sales workers (9.2%)
 - (f) Community and personal service workers (7.5%)
 - (g) Labourers and Machinery operators (8.4%)
9. 56% of the Terrey Hills population falls between 25-44 year olds. There are approximately 1,200 residences in Terrey Hills. Over 80% of them are owner occupied (42% are fully owned, and 40% are in the process of being purchased by home loan). 15.2% of the homes are rented.

10. The median individual income in 2016 was \$702 per week and the median household income is \$1,902 per week.
11. There is a large number of families in the area which, perhaps due to the conservative culture of the area, support a number of Christian Schools in or close by Terrey Hills.
 - (a) Mosman Prep has its outdoor educational campus located in Terrey Hills, which is used to provide a change to the learning environment from a classroom to an open area. It is also used as a sporting facility for weekend sport and training.
 - (b) Northern Beaches Christian School (NBCS) is also located in Terrey Hills. NBCS is an Independent co-educational school providing early learning, primary and secondary day school within a Christian context. NBCS has over 1,200 students.
 - (c) Covenant Christian School is nearby in Belrose and has 880 students.
12. St Paul's had its beginnings as a Sunday School under a tree in Terrey Hills in 1940. Church services were commenced in 1954 with supervision by various visiting clergy and ministries established (notably) by students from Moore Theological College. Services continued to be led this way until 1960 when Terrey Hills was made part of the then new Provisional District of Christ Church, St. Ives. This was formalised in 1964. The church was hand built by St Paul's members and opened in 1965. St Paul's was served as a congregation of Christ Church from this time until 1997 when the first full-time minister of St Paul's, the Rev. Gavin Parsons, was appointed.
13. In 2017 members of St Paul's requested that their congregation be classified as a Provisional Parish with a view to being a Parish as soon as possible thereafter. The Northern Regional Council approved of the classification and were keen for St Paul's to continue to full parish status apace. The Rector of St Ives, the Rev. Andrew Graham, had appointed the Rev. Scott Tarrant as Senior Assistant Minister with responsibility for St Paul's. His ministry quickly built on the legacy of the Rev. David Coy who had preceded him. With considerable goodwill, and on the recommendation of the Regional Bishop, the Archbishop appointed Scott as St Paul's first Rector.
14. St Paul's provides a range of ministries including:
 - (a) Sunday morning gatherings, with children's ministries (approx. 70 adults and 30 children).
 - (b) During the COVID-19 Pandemic the weekly services were available online. Approx. 24 hits were recorded weekly. It is impossible to determine the number of people actually watching as the number does not take into account where 1 hit may have 2 or more viewers i.e. couples or whole families watching together.
 - (c) Community Groups, meeting weekly to study the bible in people's homes.
 - (d) SRE in the local Primary School.
 - (e) A Playgroup for toddlers which meets weekly during term time.
 - (f) Friday night Youth Group (which increased from fortnightly to weekly, despite the COVID restrictions).
 - (g) During COVID the church developed a local transport and shopping service to help those who were isolated or unable to travel. Even with COVID restrictions being eased, this service has proved popular in the community and a good way to make contact with people who were not associated with St Paul's.
 - (h) Christianity Explored is held each term as well as a "hybrid" version, "6 Easy Steps".
 - (i) There is also an active "Over 55's" group who have developed links with a local retirement village. Sadly many of the activities for this group had to be cancelled during COVID.

Criteria for Parish Status (Section 6) as Stated in the *Parishes Ordinance of 1979*

15. In accordance with Section 6 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*, the wardens of the parish certify as follows –
 - (a) Local revenue in 2020 exceeded minimum threshold.
 - (b) The Rector was paid the necessary stipends and allowances, and provided with a residence.
 - (c) All cost recovery charges were paid.

- (d) A residence approved as suitable by the Archbishop is available for the Minister.
- (e) There are buildings available in the parish for use by a congregation meeting for worship and other proposes.
- (f) These buildings are in good condition and suitable for purpose, and title is vested in the ACPT.
- (g) The parish is able to service all its debts.
- (h) The parish is in a sound financial condition.

Particulars of all church trust property

16. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for St Paul's are as follows, all which are in good condition –

Property	Value
Land	1,320,000
Church Building	564,954
Church Hall	484,331
Rectory	626,720
Rectory Land	828,000
Amenities block	68,926
Total	3,892,931

* All information taken from 2020 Financial Statements

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments

17. A summary of the financial position over the past three years.

	2018	2019	2020
	As a congregation of Christ Church St Ives		
Income			
Offeratories	107,957	125,409	121,887
Other Income		10,282	22,683
Total Income	107,957	135,691	144,570

Operating expenses	2018	2019	2020
	As a congregation of Christ Church St Ives		
Ministry staff		79,880	82,292
PCR		24,431	22,504
Resources and Ministry		4,105	2,325
Parish Donations		20492	14641
Parish Administration		300	122
Ministry Property Expenses		5,223	7,455
Trading Activity Expenses		240	218
Total Expenses	154,973	134,671	129,557
Surplus / (Loss)	(47,016)*	1,020	15,014

* A number of building maintenance issues were addressed in anticipation of St Paul's separating from Christ Church St Ives. These expenses are not recurring and have significantly improved the assets of the parish.

18. A summary of assets and liabilities as of end of fiscal year 2020 according to audited financial statements:

Assets

Total Current Assets	99,133
Total Non Current Assets	3,959,400
Total Assets	4,058,533

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities	19,264
Total Liabilities	19,264

Net Assets	4,039,268
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For and on behalf of the Northern Regional Council.

CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS
Bishop of North Sydney

11 March 2021