

2011: THE TRIENNIUM OF THE 49TH SYNOD BEGINS

OUR SYNOD MEETS OVER THREE YEARS, A TRIENNIUM. Each year the Synod meets is called a Session. In 2011, the First session of the 49th Synod will meet.

This will be a significant Triennium for the Sydney Synod. Amongst the issues to be discussed and decided, there are matters of local, national and international significance.

Representatives for the new Synod will be elected at the AGM to be held in Sydney parishes across

February and March.

Given the importance of the 49th Synod, now is the time for good people in every local congregation to seriously consider who they should nominate to be their Synod Representatives, or, indeed, whether they should be nominated themselves.

The *Australian Church Record* hopes that this pamphlet might be of some help as Sydney congregation members prayerfully consider the forthcoming elections. ●

SYNOD ... WHO SHOULD GO?

Joanna Warren



WHAT A GOOD QUESTION! It's SHORTLY going to be time for each parish to vote on synod reps for the next three years, as they come to their AGM in February / March. And these synod reps will have a special responsibility during their three-year term, for they will be taking part in the election of a new

Archbishop. So in this year especially, it is important that we think carefully about who is elected.

Time is always an issue. Synod runs from 3.15pm–9.30pm for 5 nights across 2 weeks, so a rep needs to be able to be there for most of it. Depending on the type of work you are in, it can feel like doing a double shift — but it is only short term, busy but survivable. Also interesting, of course, as you learn about wider issues outside your parish and see and hear how others are working. It's great to get new ideas and perspectives on your own local mission field

and be inspired by the wonderful things that the Lord is doing in all sorts of unlikely places, and with very ordinary people.

In a sense, synod is very ordinary... full of normal people trying their best to understand and make wise contributions and decisions across all sort of issues. Of course there are many gifted and godly speakers and thinkers too, from whom we all benefit, but ultimately everyone has one vote to use as well as they can.

In 2013 at the Archbishop's election, after all the speeches, it is going to be these individual votes that will determine who the next Archbishop will be, someone who will profoundly affect the people and purpose of the diocese for years to come.

So synod is also a quietly extraordinary place as the Lord takes us and uses our decisions in the extension of His Kingdom in this profoundly needy city.

Being a synod rep is a great privilege and responsibility. ●

It's great to get new ideas and perspectives on your own local mission.

THE THREE TASKS OF SYDNEY SYNOD

Robert Tong



THE *Synod Survival Guide* written by long-standing lay member of the Sydney Synod, Robert Tong, has proved indispensable to generations of new Synod Reps.

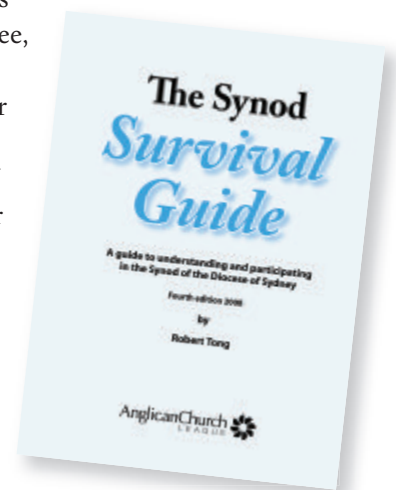
Some advice from the *Survival Guide* for those considering standing for election in 2011:

- your presence is absolutely necessary to the Synod. Remember, the Synod is not only the Bishop and his clergy, but it also includes the laity. The laity of Sydney have always exerted a powerful and influential force for good in the Synod.

- your ministry to the Synod is a ministry to the local churches: 'what we do to the framework and fabric of our denomination impacts on parish life, sometimes visibly and immediately, but often slowly over a period of time'.
- your decisions in Synod will assist the Synod in its three main tasks:

1. the order and good government of the Anglican Church in this Diocese, performed mainly through the creation of domestic rules known as Ordinances; but, additionally, resolutions are made which establish enquiries, urge action and initiate activity.
2. to act as an electoral college (i.e. the people who vote) for the filling of positions on boards and committees, and from time to time, as in this 49th Synod, to the position of Archbishop;
3. to scrutinize the decisions of the Standing Committee, which serves the Synod during the year. Each year their report to synod presents a full account of what they have done over the last year.

http://acl.asn.au/guide/Synod_Survival_Guide_4th_ed.pdf



THE AGE FACTOR

Peter Bolt



SYNOD REPRESENTATION is not just for those of 'advanced years'. It is important, of course, to have the wisdom of years feeding into the various discussions and debates. But this will happen as a matter of course. What needs more intentional planning is ensuring we hear the voices of those of 'less advanced years', those

to whom the future properly belongs.

With Synod representatives drawn from AGM made up of people 18 years old and above, there is plenty of potential for future generations to have their input in Synod.

This will be especially important at this moment in Australia's history, since a 'generational shift' is about to begin. The Baby Boomers have dominated society for decades, but 2011 is officially the first year they begin to retire. Generations X and then Y, and then those that follow, are about to have their day. AGM should help them in this direction.

In order for our Synod to help churches seize the future at the same time this generational shift is occurring it is essential that Gen X and Gen Y, and even Gens next, add their voices to the mix. AGM should not be afraid to look to the next generations for potential Synod Representatives. Make sure that the (traditionally younger) evening congregations also attend the AGM and nominate.

Perhaps the 49th Synod will see a significant lowering of Synod's average age. If so, this will be a significant step towards the generational change that must occur if we are to take Christ's mission into the future. ●

SYDNEY SYNOD: THE NEXT THREE YEARS


Mark Thompson



THOSE ELECTED AS Synod Reps in 2011 will have the opportunity to make a difference in some of the important issues in the next three years. For example, how will Synod help the Diocese:

- Build on the strengths and lessons of Connect '09 to ensure evangelism remains a vital core of our culture as a diocese
- Ensure the focus of our work as a diocese remains the parish churches and so avoiding the pressures of centralisation
- Address the future needs of ministry in the churches of the diocese given the cultural and demographic changes which have and are taking place (e.g. resourcing a significant expansion in cross-cultural ministry)
- Maintain and develop the missionary commitments of the diocese through CMS and other means
- Preserve, strengthen and extend the evangelical inheritance of the diocese by ensuring all decisions are evaluated in terms of biblical gospel principles
- Continue the work of reforming our common life and the structures that support it along biblical lines
- Renew, refresh and resource our commitment to providing the best and most appropriate theological education for those who serve in our churches through Moore College
- Continue the work of developing and implementing a governance policy for all diocesan organisations which increases effectiveness and accountability and embeds biblical principles
- Remember and maintain the good things from our Anglican Evangelical heritage
- Continue the work of restructuring the administration of the diocese in the light of changed financial conditions
- Review the effectiveness of regionalisation as it is currently conceived
- Build on the complementarian decisions of the diocese as we continue to encourage a genuine partnership of men and women in ministry
- Review the way we resource those who serve our fellowship in denominational leadership (e.g. archbishop and bishops) to ensure that nothing hinders the effective exercise of their ministry to us
- Elect a new archbishop who will lead us into the future with clarity, conviction and compassion for the world lost without Christ
- Endorse, encourage and facilitate the important ministries of the laity
- Engage with the General Synod in a principled yet courteous fashion to bring about those structural changes in the General Synod and the Anglican Church of Australia which will best serve the interests of the gospel of Christ
- Work through how we might continue to assist and resource the ministries of biblically faithful men and women outside the diocese and across the world (building on the role we've been able to play in GAFCON and the Global South)
- Respond to the Anglican Covenant and the Jerusalem Declaration

In the next three years ... how will Synod help the Diocese.

Mark Thompson is the Head of Theology, Philosophy and Ethics at Moore College and the President of the Anglican Church League 

YOUR 2011 AGM: THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Chris Allan



I HAD AN INTERESTING conversation at Summer School with a good mate with a problem. He is a somewhat new Rector in Sydney. He pointed out that having grown up in a reasonably *large* church in Sydney; he had always looked forward to the AGM. It was an opportunity to celebrate, encourage, and appoint godly and able

men and women to significant positions for the future. Deciding who to appoint was often hard—there was always so many to choose from.

His problem now: he is the Rector of a *smallish* church. They are still able to celebrate and encourage one another for the year ahead at the AGM, but appointments ... that's a completely different fish.

For some churches, there is a plethora of accountants from which to choose the Treasurer. There can be numerous godly, appropriate and—importantly—'available' people to serve as Wardens and Parish Councillors. But this isn't the case for all churches. For smaller churches, these people exist. But they are often fearfully overworked, and their election comes at the cost of them perhaps standing down from other important roles.

The most important positions are likely to be the first filled: Wardens, Treasurer and Parish Council. Nominators

are also obviously important, but the position that is often left unplanned and up for grabs at the end of the AGM is the Synod Representative.

I've been at AGM where the call for nominations for Synod Representative is preceded by "Who has five days to spare in ten months time for a tedious and confusing meeting held in the city? Any takers?". Not exactly an inspirational marketing line!

In the next three years, Peter Jensen will retire as Archbishop. 2011 also marks the beginning of the new three-

year block for Synod. This means, those elected at AGM in the next two months throughout Sydney will be the people voting for Sydney's new Archbishop.

All of a sudden, with that realisation, the importance of those little meetings on Sunday afternoons during February–March right across Sydney takes on a whole new light.

Much thought and prayer must be given to the Synod Representative. Is the person godly, theologically aware, available to attend the Synod, and representative of the congregation? Please pray, for all of our AGM. 🙏

Chris Allan

Serves the Healing Ministry at the Cathedral

An opportunity to celebrate, encourage, and appoint godly and able men and women.