

REPORT TO THE 2014 SYNOD BY THE DIOCESAN REGISTRAR

Just when I thought life would settle down for me in the role of Registrar, Bishop David announced his resignation, and that has turned things upside down a little for the time being.

Synods

It's been a year of Synods for the Diocese. The first Synod in this calendar year was held in March in accordance with Canon 8 of Bishops, for the Diocese to determine whether we remain with a Single Bishop model as opposed to a Regional Bishop model. This was presided over by Bishop Victoria Matthews, and overwhelmingly voted for the status quo. This Synod was a good venue for the members to further discuss the qualities they would like to see in a bishop.

The Second Synod was the Electoral College, held in Havelock North in June. The Venerable Andrew Hedge was elected to be the 16th Bishop of Waiapu. Let's hope the 17th isn't needed for quite some time.

September sees the third and final Synod for the year.

Staffing

Staffing has remained fairly constant in the Diocesan Admin centre this year. The only change has been the departure of Angela Poynter, who was in the role of Diocesan Finance Manager. Tracey O'Shaughnessy has stepped up into that role from the role of Parish Accountant. There has been no replacement for that role, Lesley Thomas who in the role of Parish Administrator has picked up a lot of the duties of the Parish Accountant role, and we covered the end of year accounting task with a Contract Accountant. Robyn Owen is still in the Accounts Payable role. We have been able to streamline the Parish accounting functions and this is working a lot smoother now. The team are endeavouring to be a resource to those in the Parishes that need assistance in the Finance and Admin area.

Parish Accounting

The financial year for 2014 is only a 9 month year, due to the Balance date change agreed to at Synod in 2013. The balance date for all parishes and the Diocese is now 31 December. This means early in 2015 the Finance team will be gathering the final information to produce the end of year accounts, in time for the Auditors to begin the process.

The finance team have embarked on information sessions with groups of treasurers, administrators and any other interested parties in Parishes. So far they have met with Napier, Hastings and Eastland Parishes to explain the Parish accounting scheme procedures and answer any questions that Parishes may have. It is intended that they will travel to Bay of Plenty Parishes next.

Video Conferencing and Website Development

Video Conferencing is up and running finally. We have a Boardroom solution in Napier at the Anglican Centre and one at Hodgson House in Tauranga. Mobile solutions are available for those in other areas. It is hoped that this means of communication will save both in time and cost of travel.

Standing Committee identified the need for a more user friendly up to date website in order for it to be an effective resource and communications means for the Diocese. The communications committee are currently working with Quest Marketing to develop this website, Anglican Care Waiapu are working with the same company to develop their brand and website also.

Diocesan Admin Centre

In January this year we welcomed the office of the Anglican Schools Director into the Bower Street building. Anne van Gend has been a welcome addition to the family.

As I mentioned in my report last year – my door is always open, and I'm only a phone call or email away. If I can't provide the answer, I will work with you to find it.

Colleen Kaye
Diocesan Registrar