

## **Proposal to Change the Parish of Bondi to a Provisional Parish**

(A Report from the South Sydney Regional Council)

### **Initiation of Proposal**

1. The proposal was made to the Archbishop by the Minister and Churchwardens of St Matthew's Bondi under Clause 4(1) (c) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.
2. The requirements of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with.

### **Details of the Meeting**

3. A meeting of the SSRC Permanent Investigation Committee was held on 3 June 1997 to consider the proposal under Clause 5 of the Parishes Ordinance when the following persons were present -

*Permanent Investigation Committee:* Archdeacon T.W. Edwards, the Rev J. Williams and Mr A.R. Pidgeon.

*Promoters:* the Rev G. Robinson, Mr L. Dudman, Mrs B. Bubacz and Mrs P. Wickham

*In Attendance:* Mr B. Gaetgens (Parish Treasurer)

### **The Proposal**

4. The proposal is to change the parish to a provisional parish from 1 January 1997. The Parish Council by resolution has consented to the SSRC provisionally changing the status of the parish to a provisional parish under Clause 8(2) of the Ordinance.
5. The proposal arises from the creation out of the parish of the Provisional Parish of Bondi Beach effective from 31st December 1996, and the appointment of the Rev Stephen Bligh to the new provisional parish with Vision 2001 funding.
6. The Rev Gordon Robinson has been Rector of St Matthew's Bondi since 1965, and now ministers to a smaller section of his former parish.

### **Parish Information**

7. 7665 persons claim adherence to the Anglican Church of Australia within the parish (NCLS 1991). The population is highly mobile with 55% having moved in the previous 5 years, and 76% living in flats/medium density housing. Over 40% of the population has never married. The older population has a high proportion of pensioners. Jewish people constitute over 12% of the population. Large numbers of non-English speaking background people have moved into the parish.

8. The parish has 20 regular worshippers out of a total of 50 members. There is a real link with approximately 200 families. Average attendances have been stable for the past three years at the only service held at St Matthew's. The congregational age profile is greying. Now that the parish is a single church parish, 3 services are now provided each Sunday -

<i>Time</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
8.00 am	5
9.30 am	18
6.30 pm	6

9. Other parish activities include regular SRE at the local school with the Rector actively involved in seminars at a nearby High School. There is no youth or children's ministry based at the church because for over 20 years such ministry was conducted at the former branch church where facilities were better. The Rector takes a monthly service at a local aged persons hostel, and visits other nursing homes and the housebound. There are 2 Bible study groups in the parish, and a fortnightly coffee morning outreach.

10. A summary of the financial position at St Matthew's Bondi over the past 3 years and until the end of May 1997 follows.

<b>Receipts</b>	1994	1995	1996	1997 to 1/6/97
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Offeratories and Donations	14,445	15,841	15,563	6,965
Missionary Receipts	3,708	3,776	2,806	1,588
Hall Donations & Interest	9,933	47,859	44,190	13,883*
Branch Church Contribution	24,000	15,000	8,250	-
HMS Grant ('94), Special Donation ('95) Parish Worker	20,000	9,000	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>72,096</u>	<u>91,476</u>	<u>70,809</u>	<u>22,436</u>

\* *Hall rent is currently in arrears*

<b>Payments</b>	1994	1995	1996	1997 to 1/6/97
Stipends & Allowances	61,204	47,694	41,111	17,226
Diocesan Assessments	4,000	7,000	8,450	3,980
Other	3,698	6,166	6,298	8,225
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>68,902</u>	<u>60,860</u>	<u>55,859</u>	<u>29,431</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<u>(1,054)</u>	<u>24,603</u>	<u>7,948</u>	<u>NIL</u>
Missionary Giving	4,003	4,751	3,986	1,588

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11. The following details have been supplied concerning real estate held by the Church Property Trust for the parish -

	<b>Value of Building \$</b>	<b>Condition of Buildings</b>
Church	1,375,000	Good
Rectory	364,000	Medium
Parish Hall	317,000	Poor
Kindergarten Hall	100,000	Good

The land value of the property is \$1,695,000.

12. There are no debts on parish properties.

**Action by SSRC and Recommendation**

13. The SSRC Parish Investigation Committee, acting with full delegated authority of the SSRC, provisionally changed the Parish of Bondi to a provisional parish from 1st January 1997, and recommends the Synod assent to this change of status.

For and on behalf of the South Sydney Regional Council.

TREVOR EDWARDS  
*Archdeacon of South Sydney*

19 August 1997