

Proposal for the Parish of West Ryde to Change Classification to Provisional Parish

(A report from the Standing Committee)

Initiation of Proposal

1. The proposal was made to the Archbishop by the Churchwardens of St Columbs' Church, West Ryde.
2. The requirements of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with.

Details of the Meeting

3. A meeting of the Permanent Investigation Committee was held on 24 June 1994 when the following persons were present -

<i>PIC</i>	Archdeacon G.R. Huard (Chairman), Archdeacon R.T. Platt, the Rev P.J. Tasker.
<i>Promoters</i>	The Rev A. Asplin, Mrs L.B. Keating and Mr A. Hodgess.
<i>In Attendance</i>	Mr K.R. Bowden (Secretary).

Details of the Proposal

4. The proposal is to change the Parish to a Provisional Parish from 1 January 1994. The Parish Council by resolution has consented to the Standing Committee provisionally changing the status.
5. The Parish of West Ryde has been unable to pay its assessments for the whole of 1993 and for the first 2 quarters of 1994 so that arrears total \$5,897.
6. There are 3,918 nominal Anglicans in the Parish of West Ryde. In recent years there has been a substantial influx of migrants which have risen from 6% of the population at the 1986 Census to 38% of the population in the 1991 Census.
7. Sunday services are conducted at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm with a total average attendance of 50 people. Youth work is being developed and once a month the evening service is a youth service attended by between 32 and 50 young people. There is a Sunday School, mid-week Bible study and monthly afternoon fellowship. An ESL work was started with HMS grants a few years ago and this continues with an average of 15 class members drawn from people with a Korean, Sri Lankan, Chinese, Chilean and Polish backgrounds.
8. Very few members of the congregation are in paid employment, most are pensioners on fixed incomes. The church is working with the Anglican Youth Department to build up a youth work with children of a difficult background with a focus on discipleship courses. The Parish

Council have applied for HMS grants to pay for a catechist/youth worker for the next 2 years.

9. A summary of the financial position of the Parish over the last 3 years is given below -

	1991	1992	1993
	\$	\$	\$
<i>Receipts</i>			
Offertories	63,034	49,892	35,772
HMS Grant	12,000	15,000	8,520
Other	212	8,597	2,752
Total Receipts	<u>75,246</u>	<u>73,489</u>	<u>47,044</u>
<i>Payments</i>			
Stipends, Salaries and Allowances	48,721	51,061	41,138
Assessments	3,573	4,166	-
Missions	10,998	9,324	2,957
Other	10,557	8,779	6,093
Total Payments	<u>73,849</u>	<u>73,330</u>	<u>50,188</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,397	159	(3,144)

10. The following details have been supplied concerning real estate held by the Church Property Trust upon trust for the Parish -

Improvements	Insured Value of Improvements \$	Condition of Building
Church	365,000	Good
Rectory	130,000	Fair
2 Parish Halls	732,000	Good/Fair

11. There are no debts on any of the properties. The rectory requires drainage work which will cost in excess of \$1,500. The small parish hall needs work on the guttering, roofing and interior which is estimated to cost \$2,500. A drain underneath the car park has collapsed and no estimate is available yet for repair. The church had some termite infestation but this has been treated at a cost of \$1,795 which was raised by special appeal to the congregation.

12. The Churchwardens note that they were unable to pay a full stipend in 1993 but received a special grant from HMS to cover amounts due. They have been unable to pay the full stipend in April 1994 and owe \$568, they will probably be unable to pay the July stipend in full. The present bank balance is only \$629. The congregation is contributing to the limit of its resources. They note that other large churches in the immediate area attract the young families and believe that the future for their church is to pool resources

with neighbouring churches with St Columbs' specialising in a ministry such as ESL.

13. The Parish Council have considered the possibility of amalgamation with a neighbouring parish but have made no specific proposal at this time.

14. The area Archdeacon supports this application.

Provisional Reclassification

15. The Standing Committee is to consider this matter on 29 August 1994 and is likely to adopt the recommendation for provisional reclassification.

Recommendation

16. That the Synod confirm the provisional parish status of West Ryde.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

K.R. BOWDEN
Assistant Diocesan Secretary

16 August 1994