



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

SUMMARY OF SYNOD 2020

A different kind of meeting

This year, Synod was to meet from 3 to 5 September. With the Cathedral unavailable, arrangements had been made to hold the Synod Service at St George's Church, Papatoetoe, with business sessions at the Vodafone Events Centre in South Auckland. Of course, COVID-19 Level restrictions meant none of that happened!

Alternative meeting arrangements were made to allow legal requirements to be met. Synod met by Zoom on 5 September and business was limited to fit this format. A total of 240 participated, with Bishop Ross chairing the meeting from Neligan House. Archdeacon Carole opened the meeting with prayers, noting it was the day in the Church's year when St Teresa of Calcutta was remembered.

Firstly, it was necessary to suspend Standing Orders and also to vary the Electoral Process to permit appointments to be made to the Diocesan Council. It was agreed to suspend discussion on motions and most bills until a physical session of Synod could be convened (20-21 November is proposed). A SurveyMonkey format was used to elect three clergy and two lay members to the Diocesan Council.

Bishop's Charge

COVID-19 and its effects

The Bishop began by acknowledging the impact the pandemic had placed on people's lives, including church life. In particular, not being able to gather in person for worship had reinforced for him that "we were an incarnational Church". He paid tribute to the work done by clergy in presenting online services, as well as the many connections made through telephone trees and other contacts.

Bishop Ross sensed people were starting "to move away from global and are looking for a genuine experience of what it means to live connected into a local community". This also connected with the desire for people to live more sustainably and he noted the various initiatives to achieve this. He paid tribute to the late John Allen (Diocesan Sustainability Fieldworker) and also the work done by ADJust.

Auckland City Mission

The work of the Auckland City Mission was acknowledged with grateful thanks. Since its foundation on 6 June 1920, the Mission has provided unconditional love and practical support for all who had come seeking its services. The Bishop was particularly impressed by the collaboration between the Mission and the Anglican Trust for Women and Children that meant it could continue providing services to the community right through Level 4 lockdown, at some cost to staff. He congratulated the City Mission on 100 years of service to the people of Auckland and beyond.

Tikanga and other relationships

Bishop Ross spoke of the importance of good engagement with our Tikanga partners. He noted that a Partnership Commission had been established to ensure better connections and build mutual support. Resolution of an historic issue relating to the sale of land at Ōrākei was progressing well and should be resolved shortly. He also outlined initiatives in professional development using technology as well as new ministry developments such as fulltime ministry at Glen Innes and intentional communities of young people being established.

The Bishop's Charge can be viewed here:

- Download copy: <https://aucklandanglican.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Synod-Charge-2020.pdf>
- Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rCorJr0MoY&feature=youtu.be>

The business of Synod

One Bill was considered as a matter of urgency and passed. The Bill provided increased flexibility in the governance of the City Mission by increasing the number of trustees on its Board.

An interview between Bishop Ross and the City Missioner, Chris Farrelly, recorded earlier, was also shown. In it, Chris outlined the challenges of providing services for the greatly increased numbers seeking support over recent months. In June, the Mission had quietly celebrated 100 years of service to the City during an exceptionally busy period. He also spoke about the Mission's HomeGround project, now nearing its fundraising target of \$110m. Construction of the building was progressing well, and all were looking forward to the enhanced services it would provide.

A book about the Mission, *Agency of Hope* by Peter Lineham, would be launched next month to mark the Mission's centenary.

The interview can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuztfsMKUgE>

Closure

The meeting adjourned until 2 September 2021 unless summoned earlier (as hoped) for a special meeting of Synod.