



St Luke's in the City

150 years - 2009

Celebrating at the Crossroads

19th Sunday after Pentecost

21 September 2008

SYNOD REPORT

Synod 2008 began on Thursday 4 September with the Cathedral service addressed by Bishop Victoria Matthews. Her address is well worth reading; copies are available at the back of the church. Her remarks indicate how she believes we can all be better witnesses in this world.

Bishop Victoria announced that "it is my intention to call you back together in about six months time to present a strategic plan for the Diocese. Obviously, part of that March 2009 Synod will have to be a reconsideration of the budget in the light of this new strategic plan." Changes are afoot!

Changes will also be made in the running of Synod. There was a level of the frustration apparent on the following two days as Synod wound its slow way through the arcane process of dealing with what should be routine matters – "first readings, second readings and third readings" of bills, going into a "committee of the whole house" and then "reporting back". There was relief when a motion came from the floor that the process of handling legal matters be reviews by an existing committee which is looking at Synod processes.

A budget was passed, but this will clearly be changed at the planned 2009 Synod

The financial report from the Church Property Trustees caused some comment because it was not easily followed (by some parishes) and included a loss on investments held in the "Balanced Growth Fund". Further losses have occurred since balance date (December 31 2007). I shall be asking for more details at the 2009 Synod.

A proposal to change the timing and duration of Synod (to start on a Saturday) was soundly defeated. The comment was also made that Synod once lasted a week!

I am looking forward to learning of the new strategic plan which the Bishop is preparing and I also look forward to changes in the way Synod operates.

Alan Robb
People's Warden