

MOWatching

newsletter of MOWatch Australia

Reg No A0008603A

May 2008

Women in purple all over the globe!

Perth, Melbourne, Cuba, Canada, New Zealand ...

After the long years of 'waiting in the wings', the Anglican Church of Australia is about to consecrate two women as Bishops in the Church of God - Archdeacon Kay Goldsworthy in St George's Cathedral, Perth on May 22, and Canon Barbara Darling in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne on May 31.

And the idea is catching on across the globe: New Zealand, pioneer in having a woman as a diocesan bishop (Penny Jamieson, Dunedin), is calling Bp Victoria Matthews from Canada to Christchurch. Canada is taking a new step by calling Dr Jane Alexander to

follow Bp Matthews in Edmonton! And on 10 June 2007 Cuba consecrated the first woman to be made a bishop in the Caribbean.

This issue features articles covering the stories of these women. Their call not only marks a breakthrough for them, but for many other Anglican women, whose call to baptism is now without limit among God's people. And a similar story is true for many Anglican men, for whom the burden of feeling 'favoured' is lifted.

Rejoice! For God has called ALL of us! □

Kay Goldsworthy Australia's first female bishop

BY PAUL OSBORNE, AAP, April 11, 2008

PERTH Anglican archdeacon Kay Goldsworthy has today made history - becoming Australia's first female bishop.



Photo: Steve Ferrier, Sydney Morning Herald

Ms Goldsworthy, 51, was today named as an assistant bishop, to be consecrated on May 22.

The unanimous decision was made by Perth Archbishop Roger Herft and his diocesan council last night in the wake of an agreement reached this week between Australia's Anglican bishops on a protocol to handle opponents of women bishops.

Under the protocol, parishes that cannot in good conscience recognise the ministry of a woman bishop will be offered the services of a male bishop.

The [Australian Anglican] church's peak legal body last year affirmed it would not breach church law to appoint a woman bishop.

The stained-glass ceiling has been shattered

Anglicans rejoice at the historic appointment of two women bishops.

BY MURIEL PORTER, *The Age*, 28 April 2008

CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara Darling on becoming Melbourne's first woman bishop. Congratulations? It doesn't seem the right word somehow.



It is too ordinary for such an extraordinary event.

It does nothing to convey the excitement, the delight, the teary joy so many of us, both women and men, are feeling at the news of this historic appointment.

It comes as the culmination of a special period in history for women in this country. Quentin Bryce's appointment as the nation's first woman Governor-General came just two weeks ago, a day after the news that Kay Goldsworthy had been appointed a bishop in Perth. The sound of shattering glass ceilings — stained-glass ceilings included — is welcome background music.

In this time of great joy, it is tempting to forget the

Continued on page 3

Continued on next page

President's Column

What a tremendously exciting year this is for MOWatch as we celebrate another milestone in the journey towards full and equal ministry of women and men in the Anglican Church.

It is not yet time to be able to say that we have achieved all our aims, but it is time to celebrate the appointment of our first women bishops and I hope that everywhere and anywhere you will do this with 'style'.

I will be going to Perth for Kay's consecration along with other members of *MOWatch*. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend Barbara's consecration due to commitments that weekend, but Bronislava Lee will represent me in her role as Vice President.

Earlier this year we held our AGM, hosted by MOW Sydney, when Kay Goldsworthy was our guest speaker. It was a great occasion, and Kay was able to give us further information about the *MOWatch* Conference to be held in Perth in August. Details are elsewhere in the Newsletter, so please think about attending or assisting someone else to come. It would be good to have all our dioceses represented.

It seems a long time since General Synod last October, but the Executive attended, and our display - which was primarily directed towards women in the episcopate - drew a lot of interest. Our ongoing involvement as a movement for change did not go unnoticed. Talking positively with people from

around the country about women in various areas of leadership, as well as looking to future possibilities for a greater representation of women in decision making issues was refreshing and uplifting.

After a great holiday in India, I returned to celebrate Easter in the parish of Killarney. I have now returned to full time ministry as Rector of Chinchilla, a growing and increasingly busy town about 300km west of Brisbane.

My appointment as Archdeacon of the West will give me a few more kms to travel from time to time, but the scenery won't change that much! I have been welcomed and cared for since my arrival and I look forward to the future at St Cecilia's, the patron saint of music, how good is that ☺

At our next AGM, which will be held at the beginning of the Perth Conference, I will be resigning from the position of President after 11 years. I have enjoyed the journey, but fresh leadership is always a good move after 10 years and if we are to achieve all our aims then this is important. I will still be around to contribute in any way that is helpful particularly with future conferences.

So please give consideration and prayer to a new appointment and continued support to those who will continue on the Executive.

Peace and Joy, don't forget to dance!

Val Graydon,
MOWatch President

The stained-glass ceiling has been shattered

Continued from previous page

long, tortuous road that Darling, Goldsworthy and other church women have had to journey to reach this happy day.

More than 30 years ago Melbourne Anglicans first called for women to be accepted as bishops. When the diocesan synod issued its confident call in 1976, Darling was a young woman recently arrived in Melbourne to study theology. She was soon teaching male candidates for the ordained ministry and giving them many of the skills they needed as they prepared to become priests — and some even to become bishops — decades before she was able to follow in their footsteps.

No one in 1976 imagined how long and painful the road would be for women like Darling as they began to seek ordination themselves. Thank goodness she came to Melbourne. It is not by accident that both

Darling and her sister bishop, Kay Goldsworthy — a native Melburnian — were first ordained here.

While Darling's home diocese of Sydney has progressively hardened its heart against women in church leadership — and much else besides — Melbourne has been the engine room of the women's movement in the Anglican Church. Its archbishops have been un-failingly supportive, its clergy and lay people mostly so.

In the face of Sydney's unyielding opposition, Melbourne has constantly called on the national Anglican General Synod to open the door to women as deacons, priests and bishops.

Even here it was not easy for either woman in the beginning. Some male students walked out when Darling first preached in 1976. Others, men and women, resisted their early appointments in parishes. Every single step of the way has been contested for these pioneers. □

Kay Goldsworthy Australia's first female bishop

Continued from front page

Bishop-elect Goldsworthy was in the first group of women to be ordained a priest in Perth in 1992. The mother of twin boys who has been married to husband Ben for 20 years said she had been invited to think and pray about being a bishop by Archbishop Herft several weeks ago.

She said it was unlikely she would feel slighted by parishes not accepting her ministry, having first felt a call to serve the church at the age of 16 and faced criticism over the years.

"I've travelled a path where there's always been someone or some group that doesn't agree or doesn't want to receive your ministry, so I won't feel slighted," she told AAP.

"I'm always sorry that we have such differences and I wish it were different, but ... I want everybody to see that the ministry of women is to be valued and celebrated."

Bishop-elect Goldsworthy said she did not believe the move would split the church in Australia.

"Women were first made bishops over 20 years ago in the (worldwide) Anglican Communion and the communion has continued to work," she said.

She said parishes in Perth that did not accept her ministry would be able to draw on the services of two other male assistant bishops and the archbishop.

Archbishop Herft said Bishop-elect Goldsworthy was an outstanding candidate.

He said her previous experience as a school chaplain, canon of the cathedral, parish priest and archdeacon meant she was "one of the best qualified priests to take on this role".

Women bishops are currently serving in the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

"Australia has been a while catching up, but our time has come and I know that the great majority of Australian Anglicans warmly welcome this day," Herft said.

Background

Women in the Anglican Church - a timeline (AAP Factbox):

1944 - First woman ordained in Hong Kong.

1969 - First Anglican Church of Australia (ACA) study into women clergy.

1974 - US ordains 11 women priests in Philadelphia.

1977 - Anglican Church of Australia's General Synod requests the drafting of laws to ordain women.

1981 - General Synod passes bill, which lapses after dioceses vote against it.



1985 - General Synod passes women deacons law but rejects women priests law.

1986 - First women deacons ordained in Australia.

1987 - Special General Synod fails to pass women priest laws in House of Clergy by four votes.

1988 - Melbourne synod passes women priests' law.

1989 - Canberra-Goulburn synod enacts ordinance authorising bishop to ordain women priests.

1989 - First woman bishop consecrated in USA.

1990 - Canberra bishop Owen Dowling announces plan to ordain women priests in February 1991.

1991 - Church's law court says it is unable to reach decision on powers of dioceses, and Bishop Dowling sets February 2, 1992, as date for first Australian Anglican women priests.

1992 - Court injunction delays Canberra ordination. Perth goes ahead on March 7 after court injunction there fails. General Synod approves laws.

2001 - Laws allowing women bishops withdrawn from General Synod.

2004 - Women bishop laws debated at General Synod but do not achieve required two-thirds majority, after earlier voting in-principle to support them.

2005 - Group of 25 General Synod members asks church's highest court, the Appellate Tribunal, whether the church's constitution contains anything that would prevent women bishops.

2007 - Appellate Tribunal says, in a 4-3 majority decision, that there is nothing in the church's constitution preventing a woman from becoming a bishop.

2008 - Bishops agree to protocol on dealing with parishes that disagree with women bishops. A day later, Archbishop of Perth Roger Herft appoints Kay Goldsworthy the nation's first female bishop.

[A week later Archbishop of Melbourne Philip Freier appoints Barbara Darling as a bishop, to be consecrated on May 31.] □

Advance Notice Advance Notice Advance Notice

Muriel Porter's essay, *Women in Purple: Women Bishops in Australia* (John Garratt Publishing) is expected to be available in late May / early June.

MOWatching is produced by MOWatch Inc. Editorial responsibility is taken by Charles Sherlock, 3 Lelant St Trentham 3458. Written contributions should be emailed to chsherlock@netspace.net.au.

Bp Victoria Matthews elected bishop of Christchurch NZ

A Canadian bishop who is part of a high-level advisory group to the worldwide Anglican Communion has been elected Bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand.



Bishop **Victoria Matthews** is bishop-in-residence at

Wycliffe College, Toronto. She was the Bishop of Edmonton, Canada for 10 years from 1997 to late last year, and Suffragan Bishop of Toronto from 1994-97. In 2007 she narrowly missed election as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Announcing the appointment, the Primate of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia, Archbishop Brown Turei, said he looked forward to welcoming Bishop Matthews into the church of these islands. "I'm sure that, with all her experience, she will make a good contribution to our life and witness," he said.

Bishop Matthews, 54 and unmarried, is only the second woman to become a diocesan bishop in New Zealand. The first was Dr Penny Jamieson, Bishop of Dunedin from 1989-2004.

Bishop Matthews chairs the Canadian Primate's Theological Commission, and is a member of the Windsor Continuation Group, which is examining crucial questions about the shape of Anglican common life around the world.

She is in high demand as a retreat leader and guest lecturer, enjoys leading youth pilgrimages to holy places such as Iona and Taize, and has served as a trustee of Yale University, USA.

In 2004 Bishop Matthews underwent major surgery for breast cancer. She walked the 800km pilgrimage trail to Santiago De Compostela in northern Spain last year to celebrate a clean bill of health.

In her spare time she enjoys hiking and walking her Anatolian shepherd dog Jethro, swimming, and reading history and theology.

Her installation as the eighth Bishop of Christchurch will take place in ChristChurch Cathedral on 30 August. □

Woman bishop for Melbourne

By JANE STILL, TMA, April 25th 2008

The Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr Philip Freier, has announced the appointment of Canon Barbara Darling as an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne. She is currently the vicar of St James', Dandenong, and will be consecrated bishop on 31 May in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Archbishop in Council greeted the nomination with great warmth and affirmation, many members sharing their experiences of Barbara as a pastor, mentor and colleague - a steady, wise and deeply caring individual with many gifts to offer as a bishop.

Canon Darling was among the first women to be ordained priest in 1992 in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. She was elected a canon of the cathedral in 1995, and appointed as an Examining Chaplain in 1998. Before becoming Vicar of Dandenong, she was Vicar of All Souls' Sandringham 1995-2005, and before that Minister-in-Charge and then Vicar of St Paul's with All Saints, Ascot Vale, 1989-1995.

Barbara has many years' experience as a teacher, including lecturing at Ridley College, Melbourne, 1980-1995, specialising in Church in Australian Society. Her qualifications include an MA (by major thesis) from the University of Melbourne, a BA and Diploma in Education from the University of Sydney, and a Licentiate in Theology (First Class Honours).

Dr Freier said he believed Canon Darling is a woman of "deep faith, as well as outstanding pastoral, teaching and organisational ability," and that he was greatly looking forward to working with her as a member of his episcopal team.

Canon Darling said that she was "delighted, particularly for all women - both clergy and laity. We have been waiting many years for this opportunity, and now, at long last, the day has arrived."

"I felt called by God to some form of Christian ministry from an early age, and gradually I felt called to ordination, first as a deacon and then as a priest. I am now surprised and somewhat humbled, yet excited, about responding to the call to be a bishop."

She wants to be a bishop, Barbara said, who 'walks alongside people'. "Being aware of people's concerns, fears and doubts and helping them to grow and develop, and to understand where God is in their lives, is very important to me."

Barbara is also passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. "I love teaching and making the Gospel relevant to people's lives and in the Australia of today." □

From rookie to Melbourne bishop, meet Barbara Darling

BY BARNEY ZWARTZ, *The Age*, April 26, 2008

WHEN Barbara Darling first preached a sermon, on Anzac Day in 1976, some men refused to attend and one walked out before she began. Thirty-two years later to the day, just announced as Melbourne's first female bishop, she could reflect on how far women in ministry have come: no office of the Anglican church is closed to them.

Canon Darling, 60, will be consecrated at St Paul's Cathedral on May 31, nine days after former Melburnian Kay Goldsworthy becomes Australia's first woman bishop in Perth.

Canon Darling's appointment was announced yesterday after being approved by the Melbourne diocesan council. The appointment was kept secret until Thursday night's meeting, when it was a bolt from the blue to the committee and the wider church.

Many adjourned from the Flinders Lane meeting to a nearby hotel to broach a bottle of champagne. "I wept tears of joy," said long-term women's advocate Muriel Porter, whose challenge to the church's highest court last year proved there was no legal impediment to women bishops.

Canon Darling will be the fourth assistant bishop to Melbourne Archbishop Philip Freier, and will take responsibility for diocesan services, looking after education and chaplaincy, hospital chaplaincy, youth and children's ministries, and the multicultural ministry.

She confessed she was excited and a little overwhelmed. "At the moment there are a lot of unknowns. But all the way along God has sustained and strengthened me, and provided support.

"I'm thrilled there will be two of us (with Archdeacon Goldsworthy) to support each other and share together. It's good not to have the one token woman, though I don't think either of us has been chosen for that reason."

Canon Darling, who is single, is used to blazing the trail. She was one of the "trained women workers" the Melbourne diocese set up in the early 1980s to prepare for women's ordination, one of the first women deacons in 1986, and one of the first women priests in 1992.

She was the first woman to be given tenure as a lecturer at Ridley College, an Anglican theological college, and

the first elected a clerical canon of St Paul's Cathedral in 1995, and is now senior canon.



Photo: Jason South, *The Age*

She taught a number of subjects at Ridley for 14 years, then became vicar in turn at Ascot Vale, Sandringham and Dandenong.

Now she is pioneering a new role, both as woman who is a bishop and in the bishop's role she will perform — running services rather than geographical regions as the other three assistant bishops in Melbourne do.

Asked whether appointing a woman might be controversial, Archbishop Freier said: "It's a good move. On her experience and personal qualities, Barbara is well equipped for the role."

He said that up to a quarter of Anglican clergy in Melbourne were involved in work outside parishes, and would be greatly strengthened by someone taking 'portfolio responsibility'. He would hold consultations over the next month with people who might object in conscience to a woman bishop.

Other Anglicans welcomed her appointment, describing her as a committed, hard-working, patient, loving, generous-spirited woman.

Dr Porter said: "She's borne the heat and burden of the day from the beginning of the struggle for women's ministry. She's a truly fitting appointment who will be warmly received across the diocese."

Archdeacon Goldsworthy, who has known Canon Darling for 25 years, said she was a great choice. "It's fantastic news. It's going to be wonderful. This is the opening of a door, and there's a number of women in dioceses around the country who will walk through it."

After being ordained in 1992, the Reverend Darling wrote in *The Age* that women priests would bring new energy to the church.

"We have discovered that, as women, we bring a new set of perspectives to our ministry — a different way of relating to people, of giving illustrations in our sermons."

Now the church will discover what new energy women bishops bring. □

Mum of twins becomes first female bishop

By LINDA MORRIS Religious Affairs Writer,
The Sydney Morning Herald, April 12, 2008

APIONEER of women's ordination and mother of twins is to become the nation's first Anglican woman bishop.

The Venerable Kay Goldsworthy, archdeacon at St George's Cathedral in Perth, will be consecrated on May 22, after a meeting of 50 national Anglican church leaders this week paved the way for the removal of the so-called stained-glass ceiling.

In July, Bishop Goldsworthy is expected to take her seat among leaders of the world Anglican communion at the Lambeth Conference, which takes place every 10 years at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In a statement, Archdeacon Goldsworthy, 51, who has 17-year-old twins, said she was humbled and deeply honoured by the appointment.

"Since the first consecration of a woman bishop in 1989, women have been serving with distinction alongside men as bishops in many parts of the Anglican Communion - a development long taken for granted," she said.

"Australia has been a while catching up, but our time has come, and I know that the great majority of Australian Anglicans will warmly welcome this day. Indeed, I am conscious of many other Christians, not to mention people of other great religious traditions, who are simply delighted that leadership in the church can be shared in this way."

The Archbishop of Perth, Roger Herft, said she would act as an assistant bishop to him in Perth. She had key virtues he was looking for: "One who is close to the heart of Jesus, attentive to the spirit and humble in mind, someone who could add gifts to the episcopal team."

He called on his fellow bishops to pray for her and her family "as they respond to the pressures of receiving this decision in a holy and peaceful manner".

"Her previous experience within the diocese, including terms as school chaplain, canon of the cathedral, parish priest, and archdeacon means she is one of the best qualified priests to take on this role at this stage. We expect this news will be greeted with joy and excitement among Anglicans and many others in Australia and beyond."

Church leaders waited for the bishops' meeting before moving ahead with nominations, to give the church time to make pastoral arrangements for the care of dissident congregations. The bishops adopted the Women in the Episcopate protocol which, they said, would help deal with differences of opinion about female bishops.

Sydney is one of five dioceses which do not accept women priests, let alone women bishops.

The Bishop of South Sydney, Rob Forsyth, said the nomination was expected and despite divisions in the church

on the "wisdom of this move we will try to work as constructively as we can".

A spokesman for the Sydney Diocese said the Archbishop, Dr Peter Jensen, was in meetings all day yesterday but his comments of Thursday after the bishops' meeting still stood. "I'm pleased that there has been considerable goodwill during the formation of these protocols. Action was needed to protect the consciences of those who believe, as we do, that the consecration of women bishops is against biblical teaching," Dr Jensen said. "There are strongly held convictions which separate us but we have endeavoured to find a way forward with courtesy and respect." □

Church of England Report paves way for women bishops

From WATCHNews, 28th April 2008

WATCH is pleased that the Legislative Drafting Group on Women Bishops has published its Report and thanks the Bishop of Manchester, the Group's Chair, for making the Report available to members of General Synod in advance of the July meeting. The report is available at www.cofe.anglican.org/info/papers/womenbishopsreport.

WATCH notes the three broad approaches outlined in the Report and strongly commends the first approach, which is to proceed without further delay to opening the Episcopate to women. This represents the simplest possible statutory approach with no legal arrangements for those who remain opposed to having women as bishops and priests.

WATCH agrees wholeheartedly with the Report's statement that this approach is the clearest and has the most "obvious ecclesiological and theological coherence." We are confident that this approach will commend itself to General Synod, which has already shown its strong support for women bishops, and also to the wider Church, which has warmly received the ministry of women priests for the past 14 years and women deacons for the past 20 years. Opening the Episcopate to women will end a long period of uncertainty in the Church about the nature and value of ordained women.

By adopting the first approach, the Church of England will be in line with the 15 Provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion which have already voted to have women as bishops. WATCH would like the Church of England to follow the good example set by these Provinces and pass legislation that is free from discrimination against women. We also agree that the discriminatory clauses in the *Women Priests Measure 1993* and the *Act of Synod* should be rescinded.

Christina Rees, Chair of WATCH says, "This Report helps to clarify the way ahead for women to be bishops. There is still a way to go, but at last we can see the day coming when all orders of ministry will be open to both women and men."

WATCH hopes that the House of Bishops, meeting in May, will commend the first approach when it brings its review of the Report to General Synod in July. □

Cubans hail appointment of woman bishop

By VIANNEY CARRIERE

Article from *The Anglican Church of Canada*

Members of a Cuban diocesan synod burst into applause and shouts of joy on Sunday 10 February, 2007 when Archbishop Andrew Hutchison announced the appointment of the Revd Canon **Nerva Cot Aguilera** as one of two new suffragan bishops for the Cuban Anglican Church. She was consecrated in Havana on 10 June, 2007 along with her male colleague.

Canon Aguilera is married to Juan Ramon de la Paz Cerzo, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Havana. And in a particularly sweet moment, the announcement of her appointment followed a Eucharist during which their daughter, Marianela de la Paz Cot, was ordained priest.

Cubans also enthusiastically welcomed the appointment of Archdeacon Ulises Mario Aguiera Prendes as the second new suffragan bishop.

The suffragan bishops were appointed by the Metropolitan Council of Cuba which Archbishop Hutchison chairs, at the request of Bishop Miguel Tamayo, the diocesan bishop. The Council, at this meeting, was made up of Archbishop Hutchison and ECUSA Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori who was also present for the announcement.

The third member of the Metropolitan Council, Archbishop Drexel Gomez of the West Indies, did not attend the meeting for health reasons.

Bishop Aguilera is the first female bishop in the Caribbean.

Looking to the future

Seven people were interviewed by the Canadian Primate and ECUSA Presiding Bishop before the two successful candidates were selected. The selections were then presented to Bishop Tamayo for his approval before being announced to the synod members.

The Metropolitan Council has overseen the affairs of the Cuban Episcopal Church since 1967 when it became a diocese without formal association with any other province of the Anglican Communion. This occurred because of deteriorating relations between post-revolutionary Cuba and the United States.

In recent years, Cuban diocesan synods have found it impossible to agree on a diocesan bishop. The office is currently held by Bishop Tamayo, the bishop of Uruguay, who divides his time between Montevideo and Havana.

The appointment of the two suffragans is seen as part of a process through which Cubans might eventually elect their own bishop. □



Dr Jane Alexander elected Bishop of Edmonton, Canada ... in succession to Bp Victoria Matthews

Jane Alexander, the rector of All Saints' Cathedral and Dean of Edmonton, Canada, was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Edmonton on 8 March. Chosen on the third ballot, she received 52 clergy votes and 89 lay votes.

Jane 'takes over' from Bishop Victoria Matthews, who recently retired and who is about to become the next bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand. Edmonton will become the first diocese to have women in succession as the diocesan bishop.

A relative newcomer to holy orders, Dr Alexander was ordained priest in 2001, served several parishes in the diocese and has been Dean since 2006.

Jane began her professional life in 1981 as a music teacher in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. However her interest in church life was apparent, as her BA in music from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, earned in 1980, analyzed English liturgical music from 1370 to 1430.

In the 1980s, Jane worked as a special education teacher in England, then pursued research in educational psychology in Alberta. She earned a master's degree in education in 1993 and a PhD in educational psychology in 1996, both from the University of Alberta. She earned a Master in Theological Studies degree in 2001 from Newman Theological College. □

Canadian Anglicans celebrate 30 years of women as priests

Events across Canada marked the 30th anniversary, on 30 November 2006, of the ordination of women as priests in the Anglican Church of Canada.

In **Sorrento**, British Columbia, more than 70 Anglican women priests attended a conference at St Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops, at which Bp Ann Tottenham and Bp Victoria Matthews led plenary sessions. Canon Alice Medcof spoke of the international opportunities in which she has participated, and encouraged others to explore this avenue of ministry.

In **Vancouver**, a service took place on 30 November at Christ Church Cathedral. The Revd Linda St Clair presided and the Revd Margaret Marquardt preached. At Rension College at the University of **Waterloo**, Ontario, the *Florence Li Tim Oi Reading Room* was dedicated on 20 October. A francophone celebration took place on 30 November in St Michael's, **Quebec City**, with a round table discussion afterward and traditional Evensong. □

MOWatch at General Synod – October 2007

By JUDY LITTLE, *MOWatch National Secretary*

National Executive members, Val Graydon, Alison Gent, Kathleen Toal, Christine Middleton and myself attended the 2007 General Synod, held at Rydges Lakeside Hotel, Canberra from 20-25 October. *MOWatch* had a stand in the foyer outside the main meeting hall; it was very noticeable and well visited.

Since the Appellate Tribunal has ruled that the Church's Constitution does not prevent the consecration of a woman priest as a bishop, the main purpose of our stand was to ask the next big questions - *Where? When? Who?*

We also distributed leaflets about the *MOWatch* Conference in Perth next year, when our guest speaker will be Dr Esther Mombo, a distinguished theological educator from Kenya.

We weren't planning to sell our tea towels - they were just part of the display, but we had so many requests, we started taking orders! Kathleen Toal is organising this, so if you would like one, let me know.

Discussion at Synod which interested us particularly included:

- Archdeacon Kay Goldsworthy (Perth) called on the General Synod Standing Committee to apply the principle of equal representation of women in its appointments to Commissions and Working Groups, wherever legislatively and practically possible. It was noted that there were only 52 women among the 247 synod delegates. Sue West (Bathurst) argued that "there is no way the church can afford to leave half its brain power on the shelf".
- Archbishop Philip Freier (Melbourne) asked the synod to welcome the decision of the Appellate Tribunal and the clarity it brings to the debate on women and the episcopate.

Importantly, his motion was seconded by Sydney regional bishop, Glen Davies. He said he did not "welcome" the decision but did welcome "the clarity", because the decision meant the church had a chance to move ahead. Synod endorsed the Freier motion. (The April Bishops' meeting adopted protocols to accommodate those who cannot accept women as bishops - see separate story.)

I believe our trip to Canberra was well worth while. We met and talked to many women delegates. We thank the women who have helped along the way, and especially Muriel Porter who has worked so hard to achieve this result. Now we look forward to welcoming our own Australian women as bishops! □



Kathleen Toal, Judy Little and Val Graydon at the MOWatch stand at General Synod.

Abp Herft reflects ...

The scriptures are a vehicle to draw us into God's creating, saving, sanctifying activity. In the Exodus, Moses is the instrument through whom God leads a rabble group of slaves into becoming God's chosen people.

Standing opposed to this saving act is the overbearing figure of an unnamed Pharaoh, who decrees that all Hebrew male children must be killed at birth. Two midwives, and they are named, Shiphrah and Puah, defy Pharaoh's command (Exodus 1:15-22). Pharaoh's daughter disobeys her father's call to murder. She gives Moses his name and offers security to the child refugee. Submission is made of stern stuff in the salvation story - it demands allegiance to the God who saves, and to no other. Miriam sings the people into the Exodus, as Moses deals with the constant desire of the people to return to a place of servility. Throughout the Scriptures, in texts of promise and horror we discover there is no gender bias when it comes to sinners and saints, all have fallen short, all are redeemed by grace alone.

Yes, the plain, literal reading of some texts describe women as property, inferior, under the headship of man and commanding them to be silent in church, as there are references to the prohibition of women wearing short hair, adorning themselves with jewellery and being saved only through childbirth.

The announcement of a woman for episcopal orders is a matter for great rejoicing for it acknowledges the 'lurking texts' as well as the 'in your face' witness in Scripture of women whose leadership is buried by years of cultural clutter masquerading as Divine order. It engages the Scriptures and tradition as living reality "sharper than any two edged sword" (Hebrews 4:1 2-1 3).

Pentecost — the gift of God's Holy Spirit, wisdom and breath, Sophia and Ruah (both feminine words) brings about an equality that is so different that it can only be described as a 'new creation'. The Spirit prods us, proves us, brings life in us to creative fullness. The Spirit is God with us, in us, around us, breathing us to life.

And yet, having defined the Spirit as Wisdom, as ruah, as 'she', this feminine force of life is promptly submerged, totally forgotten, completely ignored. The masculine images reappear, the genderless God is gendered, and the fullness of God, the fullness of life, is denied in the Church. When women share the fullness of leadership we honour the Spirit who gives life.

The Holy Trinity, the remarkable truth that God is three persons yet one, the beauty of co-equals in community. We baptise people into this reality; Father, Son, Holy Spirit. We are bearers of this Divine Community, active, reconciled and seeking to

continued on page 9

SYDNEY MOW REPORT

- first instalment

By ELAINE A. PETERSON, Editor, *MOW Report*

Sydney MOW began the year in unexpected prophetic mode. We were delighted to host the Annual General Meeting of National *MOWatch* on 9th February.

The parish of St Luke's, Enmore offered the venue, and our new MOW Committee member, Sue Henry-Edwards, organised the catering and hospitality to our special Guest Speaker, the Venerable Kay Goldsworthy from Perth. Talk about entertaining angels unawares! We didn't know we were entertaining our first Australian woman bishop.

Kay's address was titled "Between Already and Not Yet." She spoke of the Christian life as "living in hope". She said that we must never lose our memory of the past as we live out the tension of feeling the discomfort of *not quite* for ordained women and our sense of the cost of *our* change for others. "We are not finished yet. God is not finished yet".

The next morning, a number of MOW members joined the large morning congregation of St Luke's to hear Kay preach a beautiful sermon on Genesis 2:7-9 to lead us into Lent. Such a happy atmosphere!

Since then the great news of Barbara Darling's appointment in Melbourne has been announced. Sydney MOW will be represented both at Kay's consecration in Perth on 22 May and Barbara's consecration in Melbourne on 31 May.

In July, our own Annual General Meeting will be held at another St Luke's, this time at Concord. Our Guest Speaker will be Muriel Porter. It's wonderful that Muriel can come to us at just the time when the issue of *women in the episcopate*, for which she has campaigned so tirelessly, is in the process of proper resolution.

So Sydney MOW members and friends are invited to join us, 2.00 pm 5 July at St Luke's Hall, 17 Burton Street, Concord. Sydney.

To those in more fortunate dioceses, Sydney MOW asks that you remember us in your prayers. ☐

Abp Herft reflects

continued from page 8

reconcile all creation into wholeness, creation in its diversity, held together in one integrity.

The visitation of Mary to Elizabeth causes life to leap in the womb and 'Magnificat' to burst from a humble and obedient heart; submission that brings praise and enables the new to be born. As the evangelist Luke observes, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by her Lord".

This is the common hope of all who seek to live in Christ. Let this be an occasion that encourages us to travel onwards magnifying the Lord and rejoicing in God our Saviour Alleluia. ☐

Sydney MOW AGM

- and an eventful Sydney Synod

By ELAINE PETERSON

A well attended Sydney MOW Annual General Meeting on 1st September, 2007 elected a new Executive Committee: Convenor – Christine Middleton, Secretary – Carol Russell, Treasurer- Lawrie Russell and a Committee: Chris Albany, Bronislava Lee, Sue Henry-Edwards, Judy Little and Elaine Peterson.

The meeting endorsed the proposal that Chris Albany would move the following motion at Sydney Synod later in the month:

Synod notes that:

- i) *within both the Anglican Church of Australia and the wider Anglican Communion there is a diversity of practice in regard to the ordination of women; and*
- ii) *Synods of this diocese have consistently voted not to permit the ordination of women as priests, based on the understanding that whilst scripture encourages the ministry of women, it denies the eldership of women in the congregation.*

However, Synod also notes that there is another understanding of scripture held by a small but significant minority within the diocese. This understanding holds that scripture supports and endorses women being involved in all aspects of the life and ministry of God's people including eldership of the congregation and so in Anglican polity being ordained as priests and bishops.

Synod therefore asks the Archbishop to explore ways in which these different views can be creatively lived out in the life and practice of the diocese.

Chris had arranged for Miss Betty Allan, a synod representative from his South Hurstville parish, to second the motion. The motion got to the floor of the synod during the final half hour of the fifth and final meeting day! We heard the excellent opening speeches of mover and seconder. It was actually a maiden speech for Betty Allan and so impressive, you could have heard a pin drop.

Then came a proposal for an amendment from Robert Tong. In effect, his amendment completely changed the meaning of the original motion, and Bernard Stewart took a Point of Order that this was therefore an illegal amendment.

The Archbishop ruled against the Point of Order, so Elaine Peterson moved Dissent from the Chairman's Ruling. The debate was now geared to procedure, as synod voted twice to **very narrowly** uphold the Archbishop's ruling. The clock was ticking, and then Bishop Glen Davies moved, with the agreement of the mover, that the matter be deferred to the first meeting of the next synod.

Passed! So we are already on the Agenda, first on the motions list for Synod 2008! Sometimes help comes in unexpected ways from unexpected people. ☐

Sydney speaks on women's ordination

ACNS 4206, 25 October, 2006

Sydney Synod has spoken decisively on ordaining women as priests, with a clear majority of members voting to move forward and not revisit the debate.

In a secret ballot last night after an hour of speeches, approximately 70 per cent of lay members (235) voted no to introduce the General Synod canon, while 85 per cent of clergy (165) also voted no.

The 'yes' vote was 114 in the house of laity and 31 in the house of clergy. The 'no' vote increased from the last ballot in 1996 and also from 1992, the first time the Synod held the debate.

The primary question centred on the decision to revisit the debate, with a secondary question debating the Synod's mind on the issue of women as presbyters (priests). It was a godly and gracious debate, with 10 speakers from both genders giving passionate arguments for their point of view.

Mover of the motion, the Revd Chris Albany, rector of South Hurstville in his closing address thanked the Synod for the debate, saying members had conducted themselves 'as graciously as I'd hoped'. Mr Albany said he joined in prayer with Archbishop Peter Jensen prior to the debate.

Rector of St Andrew's, Wahroonga the Revd Philip Griffin moved to hold a vote by house, which would make the vote open. However a successful move by layman Ian Miller meant that the Synod had a secret ballot, delaying the results until after the dinner break.

It was the end to an exhausting and stressful lead-up to Synod for many members, who put hours into preparing speeches and talking to fellow Anglicans about the issue.

One of them was Archdeacon Narelle Jarrett, Principal of Mary Andrew's College, who opposed the introduction of the bill on biblical grounds. She spoke of the past 14 debates on the issue that polarised the Diocese and fractured friendships.

She says following the Archbishop's election in 2001 and his announcement that he would not ordain women as presbyters, "trust was regained and we laughed in Synod and most importantly we regained a vision".

Archdeacon Jarrett says the 120 women working mainly in full-time ministry in Sydney are "probably the best paid women in ministry in the world" and the current enrolment of women into theological training has never been higher. "People keep saying to me there are no positions for women. There are," Archdeacon Jarrett says.

The issue of the ordination of women as presbyters has been debated worldwide for many years and at the Sydney Synod on a regular basis since 1977.

Synod agreed to the ordaining of women as deacons in Sydney in 1987 following legislation by the national church, and the first woman was ordained in 1989.

Sydney Anglican women's group *Equal But Different* received 600 letters or emails from women opposing the legislation in the lead up to this year's Synod.

Divisive issue causes some to walk away, says proponent

In moving the bill, Mr Albany said he rejoices at the opportunities for women in Sydney Diocese, but believes that God is calling some women and gifting them for the priesthood who are leaving the Diocese for ordination elsewhere.

"It becomes the issue for some people so they walk away from this Diocese," Mr Albany says. "We also at times lose people to the church because this becomes an issue that closes them to the gospel."

Mr Albany says the debate needed to be held for three reasons - firstly because it has been ten years since it has been raised in Synod, secondly the issue of women as bishops is currently being discussed at the church's court of appeal, the Appellate Tribunal, and thirdly because it was an appropriate forum for dissenting voices to be heard.

Responding to arguments from the Scriptures against women as presbyters, Mr Albany says some parts of Scripture are not meant to be "universally applied to all situations" but are meant to be read in the cultural context of the time.

Conservative evangelicals who oppose women's ordination draw on the supreme authority of Scripture and the Bible's view of godly male leadership as Christ loved the church. They draw on the Apostle Paul's letters in the New Testament where he outlines a view of family and church life with men at the head. Those with more liberal views argue that Jesus offers a more inclusive equality for women in leadership roles in the gospels. They say Paul's letters should be read in light of the culture of the time.

In his opening address Mr Albany says he stands by the "plain reading of Scripture and core theological truth" and says people should be allowed to "agree on the authority of the text but disagree about the meaning of it".

Seconded of the motion, Caroline Bowyer, a parishioner of St Peter's, Cremorne, said restricting the debate might be regarded as censorship. Drawing on a theme of 'change' from the Archbishop's Presidential Address, Ms Bowyer says ordaining women as presbyters could be a 'new and exciting' way to enact change for the revitalisation of ministry in the Diocese.

Others who spoke in favour of debating the canon included the rector of St Mark's, Granville, Canon James McPherson and senior assistant minister of St Andrew's, Abbotsford, the Revd Jacinth Myles.

Synod won't revisit debate

Solicitor Robert Tong opposed the motion, arguing that the Synod has consistently rejected this issue and the fresh debate has "enflamed some old hurts". He said there was no point in having another long debate that was unlikely to see the legislation approved.

Joining him was Louisa Pftizner, a lecturer at Youthworks College and staff member at Naremburn Cammeray parish.

continued on page 11

Archdeacon Kay Goldsworthy appointed Australia's first woman Bishop

Anglican Communion News Service, April 14, 2008

This news release was how most Anglicans outside Australia heard the news of Kay Goldsworthy's appointment.

The Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Roger Herft, this morning announced the appointment of Australia's first woman bishop. *Archbishop Herft's full statement on the appointment of Kay Goldsworthy as Australia's first woman Bishop, can be found here: www.perth.anglican.org/admin/?getfile=1582.*

"Over the last several months and particularly since Synod in October, I have been praying for God to lead us to a person who would be a godly leader in the Episcopate - close to the heart of Jesus, attentive to the Spirit and humble in mind - someone who could add gifts to the Episcopal Team," Archbishop Herft said.

"After prayerful deliberation, obtaining advice from others and with the unanimous endorsement of the Diocesan Council, it is with great joy that I bring before you the name of the Venerable Kay Goldsworthy to be a Bishop in the Church of God in the Diocese of Perth.

"In making this announcement I am delighted that we in the church of Perth continue our unwavering commitment to Christ's gospel by recognising women and men as equal partners in the world," Archbishop Herft said.

"In 1992 Kay was one of the first women ordained to the priesthood in St George's Cathedral by my predecessor, Archbishop Peter Carnley. That momentous occasion will be in everyone's minds and hearts when Kay is consecrated bishop on 22 May in the same cathedral."

Archbishop Herft said Archdeacon Goldsworthy was an outstanding candidate for the position. "Her previous ex-

perience within the Diocese, including terms as school chaplain, canon of the Cathedral, parish priest, and archdeacon means she is one of the best qualified priests to take on this role at this stage."

Archbishop Herft said the way was cleared for women as bishops in October 2007 with the ruling that such appointments were in accord with the constitution of the Australian Church. This appointment was a logical progression of that decision.

"We expect this news will be greeted with joy and excitement among Anglicans and many others in Australia and beyond."

Archdeacon Goldsworthy said she was both humbled and deeply honoured by the appointment.

"Since the first consecration of a woman bishop in 1989, women have been serving with distinction alongside men as bishops in many parts of the Anglican Communion - a development long taken for granted," she said.

"Australia has been a while catching up, but our time has come, and I know that the great majority of Australian Anglicans will warmly welcome this day.

"Indeed, I am conscious of many other Christians, not to mention people of other great religious traditions, who are simply delighted that leadership in the Church can be shared in this way.

"On a more personal note and putting my natural fears and sense of inadequacy to one side, I am trying to trust the Church discerning me as a bishop, and I simply rely on God's grace as I face the future."

Archdeacon Goldsworthy is a former member of the *Anglican Consultative Council*. □

Sydney speaks on women's ordination

continued from page 10

The new Synod member said current members should not be drawn back into decisions that were made by previous Synods.

"Nothing of significance has changed since the last Synod's rejection of the canon," Ms Pftizner said. "God's word has not changed in the last 10 years. It is not necessary for every generation to revisit every decision."

She added that Anglican women in Sydney are committed to "proclaiming Christ in a way that's appropriate for God's family and they do not need or welcome this distraction".

Academic Dean of Moore College Mark Thompson said he and others at Synod have "made up our minds" on the issue and "we are not turning back". Dr Thompson disagreed with arguments that the meaning of God's word was unclear

or could be interpreted differently on this issue.

"We have been told the Bible is unclear on this matter ... but God has not left us alone to guess what any part of Scripture is saying," he said. "We have been given the whole of Scripture so we may test one part against another. It does not mean every interpretation is just our opinion.

"God is a very good communicator - he is a good and generous God who loves his people ... we have been convinced that the teaching of Scripture is authoritative. We rejoice in the word God has given us."

Bishop of North Sydney Dr Glenn Davies closed the debate, asking those members who were in favour of women as presbyters to be prepared to put aside their preferences for the sake of unity. "We need to work together - the gospel unites us," Dr Davies said. □

'Bishop Mom'

By TANYA MOXLEY October 21, 2007, Halifax, Canada

How does it feel to be the only two people in Canada who have a 'Bishop Mom?' Pretty proud, we must say. It's an awesome thing, to be elected to a leadership position by your peers.

We are Ruth & Tanya Moxley, the only two people in Canada whose mom is a bishop in office. Our mom is Sue Moxley, as of today diocesan Bishop-elect of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island. She was elected this morning in one ballot. She has been serving our diocese as Suffragan Bishop since March, 2004. We were thrilled and proud then, and now we are again!

Despite lots of people telling us not to worry, that it'd all be fine, we were pretty tense this morning, us sisters and our dad. I don't think dad has been sleeping much for the past few days. There's no sure thing when the Holy Spirit is 'in the house'. A lot of people were in the Cathedral today. Our synod is big and 3/4 of the members were present.

Opening worship was really well done, and quickly lead into the synod formalities. Lunch followed the collection of votes for the first ballot, so we had to wait through lunch to find out the results. It was difficult for the three of us to pretend everything was normal, as we munched our way through tomato sandwiches.

Mom has been treating the whole thing with great calm, knowing that what will be, will be, and God will do whatever the right thing is that needs to be done. I guess we'll have to keep getting used to having to write in Mom's date book when it's time for a family dinner. Three to four weeks in advance. Between Ruth's belly dancing schedule and travel itineraries, family dinner is something of a scheduling challenge.

How are we now, the afternoon after? Better than we were this morning, says my dad. Some Kleenex has been used up. Dinner is being prepared. The beer has been poured. My hands have stopped shaking enough that I can type. Mom says she is breathing better now, in between answering congratulatory phone calls. Dad is busy cooking.

At least they don't have to move again. Not moving, say Bishop Mom, until the diocese sorts out a development plan for the corner where the bishop houses are. Thank goodness for that. Moving six blocks to become Suffragan Bishop was bad enough, but moving next door would really be the pits.

Our mom is a remarkable person and an extraordinary mom! We have known this for the past 30+ years. She has served God and this diocese with faith, creativity, understanding, patience and a great outlook for the future. Today's results seem to indicate that lots of other people agree with our completely objective opinion.

Congratulations, Bishop Mom! ☐

Tanya Moxley is Bishop-elect Sue Moxley's daughter.

Susan Moxley elected Bishop of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, Canada

October 22nd, 2007

Last weekend's episcopal election in Halifax was overshadowed by Montreal Synod's portentous in favour of same-sex blessings. The Nova Scotia election was held to choose a replacement for Archbishop Fred Jiltz, who has moved to Toronto to take up his new post as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Bishop Susan Moxley, the suffragan, or assistant, bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, was elected diocesan bishop on October 20 in an episcopal election at All Saints' Cathedral, Halifax. She was elected on the first ballot.

Known for a strong commitment to social justice issues, Bishop Moxley has served on the national Eco-justice Committee, Indigenous Justice Working Group and Healing Fund Committee. At the most recent General Synod governing convention in June 2007, she was chair of the nominating committee, which oversees nominations to national committees.

She is also the Canadian church's episcopal representative at the *Anglican Consultative Council* (there is also one clerical delegate and one lay delegate), the international body with representation from the worldwide Anglican Communion. It usually meets once every three years.

Bishop Moxley is 61 years of age. She is married to Bruce Moxley; they have two grown daughters, Ruth and Tanya (a member of the ACC *Communication and Information Resources Committee*).

Bishop Moxley's views on the issues that threaten to tear asunder the Anglican Communion—ordaining non-celibate homosexuals and blessing homosexual couples—are, as far as I have been able to discover, unknown. However, an Anglican rector in Nova Scotia has told his flock that she professes to hold a conservative view of Christian marriage.

We shall see how that plays out when she must take a public stand on same-sex blessings. ☐

If a red dot appears on your Newsletter it indicates that Kathleen Toal has not yet received your subscription for 2007 / 08 which remains at \$35 (\$25 concession).

Would you please forward to the address on the Contacts List in this Newsletter as soon as possible.

Canada elects another woman as a diocesan bishop

The members of the *Tapestry Chamber Choir* never thought that one of their fellow choristers would become a bishop!

“We’re so proud of her,” said Lois Yakiwchuk, an alto in the 25-member Newmarket community choir.

The choir made the trip down to St James’ Cathedral, Toronto on February 2nd (Feast of the Presentation) for the ordination of the Revd Canon Dr **Linda Nicholls** to the sacred order of bishops. It sang a beautiful rendition of John Rutter’s *The Lord Is My Shepherd*.

“The moment they started to sing that was the first moment in which I thought I was going to cry,” said Bishop Nicholls after the service.

“We’ve been rehearsing it for a few weeks and I had asked for it specially. The words say everything I want to say about this: the Lord is my shepherd.”

Bishop Nicholls, a soprano in the choir, says she hopes to remain in the choir if she can fit it into her new schedule. “As long as I can work out the logistics, I would very much like to continue. We rehearse on a Sunday evening and I love to just stand in the back row and sing my heart out.”

Despite a snowstorm on the previous day and a thick layer of slush and snow outside, the mood inside the packed cathedral was warm and joyous. The two-hour service included stirring hymns, a sermon by the Revd Canon Dr Alyson Barnett-Sowan, and the traditional laying-on-of-hands by bishops from several dioceses. The Archbishop of Moosonee and Metropolitan of Ontario, Caleb Lawrence, was the presiding celebrant and chief consecrator.

Bishop Nicholls was a parish priest in the diocese before going to work for the national church as the Co-ordinator for Dialogue. Bishop Colin Johnson said he’s glad to see Bishop Nicholls return to the Diocese of Toronto.

“We lent her to the national church and it’s good to bring her home,” he said. He said the diocese and the episcopal area of Trent-Durham in particular will benefit from the skills she honed as Co-ordinator for Dialogue.

“She brings the gift of deep listening, prayerfulness,



Bishop Linda Nicholls is joined by members of L'Arche Daybreak Community, who gave her the crozier.
Photo: Michael Hudson

theological articulation and very strong pastoral skills.”

Bishop Nicholls will be installed as the area bishop of Trent-Durham at St. Peter’s, Cobourg on March 1. She succeeds Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones, who retires at the end of February.

She is looking forward to being the chief pastor of Trent-Durham, which has 69 churches in 45 parishes and is geographically the largest episcopal area in the diocese. It is located in the eastern half of the diocese.

“I think it’s an exciting area,” she said. It has such diversity and there are so many opportunities to exercise ministry in different ways. I’m looking forward to that and to be with congregations as they continue to develop their sense of mission.”

Bishop Nicholls says she is happy to be working closely with churches again.

“I love being with parishes on Sunday mornings and sharing with them in the joy of the liturgy. I love listening to parishes wrestle with what it means for them to be the church in their community, and to listen together about what God is calling them to do.” □

*Celebrating
Australia's
First Women
Bishops*
 KAY GOLDSWORTHY
Consecration 22nd May 2008
 BARBARA DARLING
Consecration 31st May 2008

© 2008 The House of Bishops of Australia

**Postcards from the
centre**

**Postcards from the
centre**

**To celebrate the conse-
cration of Australia's
first two women bishops,
MOW has issued two
postcards. Enjoy!**

*A
Woman's
Place
is in the
House of
Bishops*

© 2008 The House of Bishops of Australia

AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN BISHOPS' PROTOCOL

Number 0011: April, 2008

WOMEN IN THE EPISCOPATE

1. As bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia, we recognise that the ministry of ordained women has been accepted in many dioceses of this Church, and also acknowledge that there are those who, for various reasons and to varying degrees, are unable to accept women in the ordained ministry.

Reference is made in some of the news coverage to the Protocol on 'Women in the Episcopate' adopted by the Bishops at their meeting in mid-April.

The text of the Protocol is printed here. Several people associated with MOW, who were involved in formulating earlier attempts, have welcomed its reliance on trust, avoidance of regulation, and the reference to the 2004 Canon. Nothing is said, however, about members of a diocese in which a woman cannot be appointed as a bishop.

2. We recognise the good faith of those who support the ordination and consecration of women and of those who cannot receive these developments, and pledge that those who hold either conviction will continue to have a valued and respected place in this Church.

3. We resolve to nurture the highest possible level of collegiality as bishops, seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4. We affirm that all people are made in the image of God, and expressly reject any intolerance or unjust discrimination against any member of this Church on the grounds of gender, since all are one in Christ Jesus, while acknowledging that diverse biblical and theological views on the place of gender in the order of creation and the church are genuinely held.

5. We affirm that episcopal ministry should be available to every community of faith and every member of this Church, whatever their belief as to the acceptability of a woman holding office as a bishop, and that the diocesan bishop will ensure that pastorally sensitive and appropriate episcopal ministry is provided.

6. We affirm that every diocesan bishop and every bishop providing episcopal ministry within a diocese should be mutually accountable in collegial solidarity with his or her episcopal colleagues for ensuring that there are reasonable and appropriate arrangements for episcopal ministry. Accordingly, we encourage all dioceses who desire to appoint or elect women as bishops to make provision for reasonable and appropriate episcopal ministry, addressing matters including the following:

- a. arrangements for episcopal visitation, confirmation and ordination;
- b. provisions for matters of discipline and pastoral succession;

c. procedures through which a community of faith may request the provision of this ministry; and

d. provision about the manner in which the costs of providing this ministry are to be borne.

We also note the proposed provisions for alternative episcopal ministry in the *Bill for a Church Law (Further*

Clarification) Canon 2004 and commend these to the dioceses for consideration in developing "reasonable and appropriate arrangements" with a degree of continuity across the Anglican Church of Australia.

7. We recommend that the custom of the Metropolitan or Primate acting as chief consecrator should be varied to the extent necessary when the Metropolitan or Primate is a woman or when a woman is to be consecrated.

8. We encourage Metropolitans, when planning consecration services, to consider that for some it will be important that three of the consecrating bishops are men, and we also pledge to act with respect for one another in the ordering of services of consecration. □

Sri Lanka ordains its first women priests

FROM AUDREY KATRINA

On September 14, 2006 (Holy Cross Day), in a country is ravaged by civil unrest and poverty, an historic happening in the worldwide Anglican Communion took place in the Cathedral of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Three women, Glory, Mallini and Chandrika were ordained as priests.

The Revd Malini Devananda, Rajagiriya, will continue her ministry as Director / Secretary of the Church of Ceylon *Board of Christian Education*.

The Revd Glory Jeyaraj, Mission House, Halgranoya, will be priest-in-charge of a small but vibrant Tamil estate parish in the tea plantations area

The Revd Chandrika Mayurawathi, St Stephan's Vicarage, Rajagiriya, will be priest-in-charge of a small sub-urban Sinhala parish near Colombo. □

MOWatch membership subscriptions for the
Financial Year 2007 / 08 are now due
[as at 1st July, 2007]

*We would very much appreciate your
continued support.*

President:

Val Graydon

61 Hypatia Street,
Chinchilla Qld 4413
Phone 07 4668 9662 Mobile: 0427 168 913
email: vgraydon@ozemail.com.au

Vice-Presidents:

Alison Gent

49 Alexandra Avenue,
Rose Park SA 5067
Phone 08 8332 0113

Bronislava Lee

180 Sutherland Street,
Mascot NSW 2020 Mobile: 0413 668 916
email: bronislava@gmail.com

Secretary & General Representative:

Judy Little

131 Riveria Avenue,
Terrigal NSW 2260
Phone 02 4385 2787
email: sanguine3@bipond.com

Treasurer and Public Officer:

Kathleen Toal

27 Springfield St,
Briar Hill Vic 3088
Phone 03 9432 9774 Mobile 0439 032 977
email: ktoal@relax.com.au

*Please address inquiries about subscriptions and change of address
notification to Kathleen Toal.*

General Representative:

Sue Henry-Edwards

PO Box 64,
Enmore NSW 2042
Phone: 02 9557 4280 Mobile 0428 260 074.

Branch contacts: Sydney MOW:

Convenor: **Patricia Brennan**,
10/24 Hilly Street,
Mortlake NSW 2137

Secretary:

Sue Henry-Edwards (details above)

email: Sydney_mow@hotmail.com

Sydney MOW

PO Box 202
Balgowlah NSW 2093

<http://www.mowatch.org.au>

MOWatch Incorporated

Registered Association No. A8603A

ABN 91 404 102 575

Membership

- I wish to take out a new membership for the
financial year 2007/08.
- I wish to renew my membership for the
current financial year, 2007/08.

(please tick one box)

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode

Phone: (Home)

(Work)

(Mobile)

(Fax)

email

Diocese:

National Membership:

Full \$35.00

Concession \$25.00

Donation: \$

MOWatch Conference 2008 \$

National General Fund \$

MOW Sydney \$

Total: \$

Please post your membership & donation to:

Kathleen Toal,
Treasurer, *MOWatch* Incorporated
PO Box 31
Briar Hill
Victoria 3088.

Thank you for your on-going support, which is vital to
our survival.



Members of the Perth MOWatch Committee (left to right):
 Back: Canon Theresa Harvey, the Revd Margaret Beach,
 the Revd Angela Webb, the Revs Sue Lodge-Calvert.
 Front: the Revd Lynne Eastoe, the Revd Susan Thorpe-Gudgeon.

MOWatch 2008 Conference to be held in Perth

Theme: *Women of faith in action:
 getting on with it!*

The 2008 conference of the *Movement for the Ordination of Women, MOWatch*, will be held from **25-29 August** at the Burswood-on-Swan, situated on the banks of the Swan River, with easy access to Perth.

The keynote speaker will be Dr **Esther Mombo**, Dean of Studies, St Paul's Uniting Theological College, in Limuru, Kenya.

The local MOWatch committee is organising the event (see picture at left). □

MOWatch Incorporated

OBJECTS

The Association is committed to challenging and transforming the Anglican Church of Australia and its role in the community. For this purpose its objects are:

- (a) To move all dioceses in the Anglican Church of Australia to admit women to the ordained ministries of the Church.
- (b) To encourage women to hear and respond to the call of God.
- (c) To recognise, encourage and extend the ministries of women, and to see that the Church makes full use of them.
- (d) To express women's perspectives in theology, to celebrate their diversity of spirituality and to promote the use of inclusive language in worship.
- (e) To bring laity and clergy into closer partnership.
- (f) To liaise with appropriate national and international women's groups.
- (g) To foster ecumenical links and support moves to ordain women in other churches.
- (h) To support those women already ordained.
- (i) To foster, gather, and share information between members across all dioceses.

In furthering these objects, the Association may co-operate with any other body provided however that such co-operation maintains the integrity of the Association with respect to its objects and with regard to the manner in which that co-operation is conducted. □

Pioneering bishop dies

Bishop Owen Dowling, who as Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn sought to ordain women as priests in 1992, died in the early morning of May 7th at Calvary hospice, Canberra, where he spent his last days.

Melva Walter and Jeannie Minnis report that the previous evening he was laughing and in good spirits. He deteriorated around 11am, and passed away early in the morning with his wife Gloria present.

MOWatch thanks God for Owen, and sends our condolences to Gloria, family and friends. □

'Cope & Mitre' Fund for Barbara Darling

A fund has been launched by four Melbourne lay women to give Barbara Darling her bishop's robes from the women and men, lay and ordained, of Melbourne diocese. Supporters from other parts of the country may also wish to contribute.

*Janet Nelson, Muriel Porter,
 Susan Sandford, Kathleen Toal*

Pectoral Cross for Kay Goldsworthy

MOWatch has commissioned noted South Australian sculptor, Silvio Apponyi, to make a pectoral cross to be presented Kay Goldsworthy at the MOW Conference in Perth in August. It will be carved in wood or wax and then cast in silver.

Silvio and his wife, Natalija (also an artist), are both committed Anglicans, and were delighted to be asked to design and make a cross for such an historic occasion. They are working together on a design based on gum leaves. The cross will cost about \$1000.

There is not much time! Make out your cheque payable to *MOWatch Inc* and for Barbara send to Susan Sandford, 15 Edmund Street, Clifton Hill, VIC 3068.

For Kay, send your cheque to Kathleen Toal, PO Box 31, Briar Hill Vic 3088, with a note saying it is for the cross.

Donations can also be made by Internet Banking: account details are available from Kathleen Toal by emailing her at ktoal@relax.com.au. □