



# ANGLICAN MEDIA TASMANIA

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

## **MEDIA RELEASE: BISHOP HARROWER RETIRES**

The Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, the Right Reverend John Harrower, will be retiring on 12 September 2015. Bishop Harrower has been Bishop of Tasmania since July 2000.

Bishop Harrower said, "Following much prayer and consultation with family, senior colleagues and close friends, I believe God has led me to draw my ministry as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Tasmania to a close.

"I am nearly 68, and it is now time to begin a new season of life closer to our extended family in Melbourne."

"Serving as Bishop for the past 15 years has been an amazing privilege, and our love for the people of Tasmania is undiminished. I look forward to celebrating the conclusion of my ministry here, and pray that God continues to build a church which transforms the lives of Tasmanians."

Regional farewell services are being held at Holy Trinity Church, 6-10 Kings Parade, Ulverstone, on Monday 7 September at 7pm, and at St John's Church, 157 St John Street, Launceston, on Wednesday 9 September at 7pm.

A Diocesan farewell service, including the Laying up of the Bishop's Pastoral Staff, will be held at St David's Cathedral, Macquarie St, Hobart, on Saturday 12 September at 2pm. Media are invited to attend this service. Bishop Harrower will be available for interview after the service (approximately 3:30pm), or at other times before 12 September by request.

After a Bishop retires, the Church holds a special Synod (gathering of representatives from each parish in Tasmania) to elect a new Bishop. This will be held on 27-28 November 2015.

*See the next page for some of Bishop Harrower's significant achievements.*

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## **Some of Bishop Harrower's significant achievements**

- Focusing the Anglican community on being a healthy church which transforms lives in Tasmania
- Leading the church into being a sustainable and growing organisation in the 21st Century including:
  - growth in numbers attending church
  - more children, youth and families involved
  - seeing large numbers of local Tasmanians trained and commissioned as church leaders
  - initiating new ministries and models of church in rural areas
  - improving the quality of building facilities and tackling issues around a number of unused or degraded historic buildings
- Implementing a response to the survivors of sexual abuse, including making an apology on his first day as Bishop, offering pastoral support and assistance, and calling for a Royal Commission in 2002
- Bringing a Christian perspective to significant public policy issues, such as problem gambling, refugees, and domestic violence