

NEW CRANMER SOCIETY NEWS AND VIEWS

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83 HANNAN ST
Williamstown 3016

From the President

Peter Adam

Loving the people of God

- We are called to love the church, the bride of Christ, the people of God. We are warned that if any one destroys God's church God will destroy that person [1 Cor. 3]. We should love the people of God, and be deeply concerned for their welfare for their sake, for Christ's sake, and for the sake of the people to whom God is calling them to minister.
- We should respect the church of Christ, recognising that it is not yet perfect, as none of us are yet perfect. The people of God are saved by grace, as individual believers are saved by grace. Yet as believers can fail to

meet God's standards, so can the people of God. We should consider 'the kindness and severity of God.'

- Christ and his apostles warned us that the last days, while times of great gospel opportunity, will also be times of doctrinal and moral confusion. We should be alert, but not alarmed!

Timothy was called to persist in ministry in Ephesus even though it appears that all the other church leaders had turned away from apostolic doctrine. He was in a minority of one. It was not a reason for leaving, but a reason to staying and persisting in ministry.

(continued over)



Bishop Barbara Darling

Anglicanism- the via media or not??

New Cranmer Synod Breakfast 7.45 for 8.00am Saturday 11 October

Cooked breakfast, Muesli, Juices, Tea, Coffee
Catching up with friends
Across the road from Synod
All welcome

Cost: \$20 Breakfast only
OR \$30 Breakfast *and* NCS membership.
Where: First floor, Young and Jackson Hotel
1 Swanston St, Melbourne.

To reserve a seat, email: tracyl@stmatts.com.au or call 9510 3326 *before* 7/10/08
Payment (Cash or Cheque) can be made at the breakfast

www.newcranmer.org.au

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Peter Adam continues...

Anglican identity

Despite popular rhetoric, the Anglican Church of Australia does have a doctrinal centre, described in our Constitution in these terms:

CHAPTER I. - FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATIONS

The Anglican Church of Australia, being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, holds the Christian Faith as professed by the Church of Christ from primitive times and in particular as set forth in the creeds known as the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed.

This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation...

CHAPTER II. - RULING PRINCIPLES

This Church, being derived from the Church of England, retains and approves the doctrine and principles of the Church of England embodied in the Book of Common Prayer together with the Form and Manner of Making Ordaining and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons and in the Articles of Religion sometimes called the Thirty-nine Articles... the above-named Book of Common Prayer, together with the Thirty-nine Articles, be regarded as the authorised standard of worship and doctrine in this Church, and no alteration in or permitted variations from the services or Articles therein contained shall contravene any principle of doctrine or worship laid down in such standard...

While this remains in our Constitution, it is right to call Australian Anglicans to commit to these values.

Furthermore, to be in fellowship with the Archbishop of Canterbury is to be in fellowship with an Archbishop of the Church of England, with the same doctrinal standards, expressed in their General Synod Canon A 5: 'The doctrine of the Church of England is grounded in the Holy Scriptures, and in such teachings of the Ancient Fathers and Councils of the Church as are agreeable to the said Scriptures. In particular such Doctrine is found in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and the Ordinal.'

About The New Cranmer Society

We are a movement within the Anglican Church of Melbourne and we:

1. Encourage the promotion of the Good News of Jesus, effective ministry and mission in the Diocese of Melbourne.
2. Work for effective institutional and church governance that responds to the demands of today, but is consistent with the teaching of Scripture.
3. Uphold credal, doctrinal and moral orthodoxy in contemporary Biblical Anglicanism.



Our Annual Meeting

**will be held on Thursday October 31, 8pm (7pm Dinner)
at Clarkes, 32 Fordham Ave. Camberwell**

Take away curry meal provided @ \$15 per head (by RSVP)

Each year we elect all the members of the New Cranmer Council.

If you would like to stand for election, then please do so.

If you think that your kind of people are not well represented by New Cranmer, then please nominate someone who would represent your views.

If you can think of someone who has the gifts and passions needed to help lead New Cranmer, then please nominate them.

If you can think of people who could help support our work, please invite them to join us on that occasion.

What should we make of Gafcon? - Peter Adam

I am sorry that I was not able to attend. I welcome the Jerusalem Declaration, and urge you to take it seriously.

Please remember that some of the most effective ministries in the history of the people of God have begun 'from below', that is by clergy and lay people seeing the need, and taking action, rather than waiting for initiatives 'from above' that is, from leaders. This has also been the case in reforming movements.

Examples include:

The clergy and people who went to live in the desert in the 2nd and 3rd Century, as a protest against the worldliness of the church.

Those who began the various Orders, such as the Franciscans, the Order of Preachers, etc. These began from below, in protest against the wealth, lack of discipline and ineffective mission of the organised church.

Wycliffe and Tyndale, who worked 'underground' for the translation of the Bible into English, and were persecuted by the church.

The Reformation in England only gained spiritual energy when it was led 'from below', by lay people and clergy who worked and suffered for their commitment to the reformation of the church.

Organisations like SPCK began 'from below.'

The Evangelical revival began 'from below.' In order to do effective and essential Gospel ministry that was being neglected by others, some bent normal protocols, because of the urgency of the situation, and the imperatives of the Gospel.

The Oxford and Charismatic Movements began as movements for renewal 'from below.'

All of these movements have formed complementary authority structures to preserve their life and promote their values.

Curiously enough, most reform movements are first of all rejected by the establishment, and then embraced by it! And most of our heroes of faith in church history were at first rejected by the authorities!

I think of Gafcon as another movement of reform 'from below', naturally regarded with suspicion by those who are not part of it, but which may yet be used by God to transform God's people. May God continue to reshape, renew, and reform Christ's church for holiness, obedience, and mission.