

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S DECENNIAL INSPECTION COMMITTEE

As a result of the economic turmoil and uncertainty of the past 18 months, 2009 has been a difficult year for the inspection program. In many cases Parishes have been reluctant to make the necessary commitment to an Inspection, mainly due to financial constraints and changes to staff and key volunteers. Somewhat surprisingly Inspectors have been unusually busy and trying to work with reduced personnel; in addition one inspector who has worked for the Diocese for more than ten years has had to resigned due to ill health. At present we have three pre-qualified Inspectors on the roster; one has indicated his intention to resign in the near future, and we are actively searching for three new Inspectors to join the team before the 2010 program begins.

16 Inspections of Diocesan property were scheduled for 2009. Of these, only three have been completed as of the date of writing. Through the good offices of the Archdeacons it is hoped that the majority of the remainder will be completed before winter or at least will have an Inspector nominated and a firm schedule for completion. The schedule of Inspections for 2009 was full in order to reach the goal of having every property in the Diocese inspected within the initial ten years. After that in 2010 the second cycle of Inspections will start. In the meantime a comprehensive review of the program is being undertaken to ensure that it will be simpler for both Parishes and Inspectors and full use is made of the initial report.

The new Model Property Maintenance Program and the associated Maintenance Checklist has been completed. The clergy, wardens and property managers of all Parishes are encouraged to peruse the two documents carefully. They have evolved as a result of the experience gained during the first decennium of the Diocesan Property Inspection Program, and have been essentially distilled from the best practices employed by Parishes. Used with care and discretion they should provide a good and efficient basis for the sound management and maintenance of Parish property. They will also make subsequent Inspections of the Property more effective, simpler and less costly! These two documents together with the Terms of Reference (September 2009) have been posted on the Diocesan website with a new link "Decennial Inspection Committee".

My thanks and appreciation go to the committee for 2008-20098, Mr. David Ricketts and Mr. Bill Holman. Mr. Ralph Crysler has regretfully had to resign for health reasons after some nineteen years of faithful service on the Advisory Committee on Church Buildings and the Decennial Inspection Committee. Ms. Karen Nowicki in the Cathedral office continues her tireless and timely work facilitates the smooth and effective operation of the Committee.

Committee Members

Mr. Bill Holman

Mr. David Ricketts

Mr. Christopher Walker, Chair

The Venerable Michael Patterson, Ex-officio

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Christopher Walker, Chair