

## Churchwardens Pack

This pack is a new initiative of the diocese to provide Churchwardens and prospective Churchwardens with a variety of information that is essential to undertaking the task.

The context that the Church in Australia now finds itself has changed dramatically in the last five years. The requirements for volunteers to have National Police Checks and Working with Children Checks have been widened significantly in response to the completion of the Victorian Government Inquiry into Child Abuse, called 'Betrayal of Trust'. Furthermore, the ongoing Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse, although not finished, has produced a number of interim reports which again will significantly change the way we undertake much of the practice of ministry and administration in our Church.

Thus as you will find in the information in the pack, the diocese will be undertaking much more detailed checking of people holding positions of responsibility within parishes.

You will find in the pack a 'Churchwarden's Code of Practice' that you are asked to agree to abide by. I have also included for your information two other codes of practice; 'Faithfulness in Service' that applies to clergy and church workers, and 'Being Together' for laity and congregations.

This all may sound very onerous and challenging, but it is something that we have to deal with in terms of the context in which we undertake the mission and ministry of the Church in the name of Christ.

Churchwardens will be required from now on to:

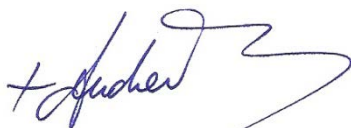
- have a Working with Children Check
- have a National Police Check
- attend a Safe Church Workshop

Some of you may already have undertaken these requirements, but if you haven't you will be required to do so by 30 June 2016. Details about Safe Church Workshops for 2016 will be available soon and you should talk to your clergy about obtaining a Working with Children Check and National Police Check.

If you have any concerns or enquiries please don't hesitate to contact the Registry and the best way to do this is through my PA Sarah at [bishoppa@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:bishoppa@bendigoanglican.org.au) or call 5443 4711.

I thank you for your cooperation and good will.

With every blessing  
Yours sincerely



The Rt Rev'd Andrew Curnow AM  
Bishop of Bendigo