

FAREWELL TO BISHOP TOM

The Venerable Lionel Snell | Archdeacon



Teenage years are the formative years of life. This is the time when we are open to new influences and new ideas. It was this period of life that was to shape and mould the future of a young Tom Wilmot. It was at this time that two significant people touched his life. The first being The Reverend Fred Armstrong, an army chaplain in the second world war and sometime rector of the Parish of Como-Manning. It is he who nurtured the young Tom and led him to be a server at the altar. He also fostered in him a call to the ordained priesthood. The second was a geography teacher in Tom's high school years. It was he who espoused the need to protect and care for the environment. He also pointed out the future of this state depended on a good, clean water supply. Here were sown the seeds of Tom's passion for environmental and ecological issues.

Realising the call to ministry Tom studied at St John's College, Morpeth in the Diocese of Newcastle. He was made deacon and ordained priest at St Georges Cathedral in 1977. He is one of a small number of priests who have served all three dioceses in the Province of Western Australia.

Always keen on the mission of the Church, Tom spent time as Regional Director in Perth for the Anglican Board of Mission. After leaving ABM he became the Archdeacon of Forrest. He then moved to the Diocese of Bunbury to take up the position as rector of Busselton. It was during this period that he became the very active chair of the group that established The Georgiana Molloy Anglican School.

He then returned to Perth in 2004 to be consecrated becoming assistant Bishop of Perth with responsibility for the country region. Apart from anything else this suited Bishop Tom and fitted in well with his love of cars and driving.

Bishop Tom also took his place in the national church. He was the Primate's appointment to the Anglican Communion Environment Network and represented the national church at international conferences.

With the departure of Bishop Mark Burton in 2008, Bishop Tom assumed responsibilities for the northern region of the diocese to go with his responsibilities in the country. This lasted until the consecration of Bishop Jeremy.

Bishop Tom has a wonderful disposition which sees him comfortable and relating to

world leaders, captains of industry, parishioners, the homeless, and people from every walk of life. He has a lively sense of fun. He is a person who walks alongside to care and support anyone and everyone.

We wish Tom and Gaynor well in retirement.



Friends from the beginning.

When the Chipper family began providing funeral services, Western Australia was known as the Swan River Colony. Since then, Chipper Funerals has seen the city of Perth and surrounding areas grow into the community we enjoy today.

Throughout this time, Chipper Funerals has been a friend to Anglican families at a difficult time, providing the highest levels of care, professionalism and guidance to those in need.



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