

# â??A good example to allâ??: Diocese gives thanks for Bishop Tim Harris

Adelaide Anglicans gathered at St Peterâ??s Cathedral for Choral Evensong on Sunday 22 November to give thanks for the episcopal ministry of the Right Revâ??d Dr Tim Harris, who retires as Assistant Bishop of Adelaide at the end of this year after 15 years as a bishop.

He will continue as Rector of St Matthewâ??s, Kensington, until Easter 2027.



***Left to right: The Most Revâ??d Dr Bradly Billings, Mrs Fiona Harris, the Rt Revâ??d Dr Tim Harris, the Rt Revâ??d Chris McLeod, the Rt Revâ??d Sophie Relf-Christopher.***

Preaching at the service, Bishop Tim spoke of a Church whose unity is found in Christ rather than in any one camp.

â??Our calling is not to make Christ the possession of our own party or tradition,â?• he said. â??It is to let his character become visible among us: in the way we disagree, in the way we exercise authority, in the way we welcome those whose worth the world overlooks. No social standing, no measure of ability, no human judgement of importance determines who may receive his love.â?•

**Thirty years in the Diocese**

The tribute was given by Bishop Chris McLeod, who has known Bishop Tim since he first came to the Diocese of Adelaide in 1995. Not long after, Bishop Chrisâ??s wife Susan became Office Administrator at St Matthewâ??s â?? â??where she was able to spy on Tim and feed back to me all his great ideas,â?• he said.



The two worked closely when Bishop Tim was Archdeacon for Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth, with Bishop Chris on his team. â??Tim has always had a heart for missional growth across the whole Diocese, not just for his own parish,â?• he said, recalling that an older priest of the time had described him as a â??churchman.â?•

â??Tim worked for the good of the Diocese and the Church at large. That passion for Godâ??s mission has been at the heart of Timâ??s ministry.â?•

Bishop Tim is also known for his biblical scholarship. His PhD examined Paul in the light of the Graeco-Roman world, and Bishop Chris was among the postgraduate students he taught on that subject. â??I still value the ideas and readings he introduced us to,â?• he said.

**A portfolio bishop**

Bishop Tim was consecrated in 2011. In 2016 he served as Administrator of the Diocese during the interregnum between Archbishops Jeff Driver and Geoff Smith, with Bishop Chris â?? consecrated the previous year â?? as his assistant. â??I enjoyed being his assistant at that time, especially because he did all the hard work,â?• Bishop Chris said.

Both men have served as what Bishop Chris calls â??portfolio bishopsâ?•: Aboriginal ministry for Bishop Chris, and missional ministry and theological education for Bishop Tim.

Bishop Tim took on the role of Bishop Missioner to the City of Playford, exploring mission in Adelaideâ??s north, before returning to St Matthewâ??s as Rector in 2022. Bishop Chris commissioned

him for that ministry. â??He helped me, and I helped him (I hope!),â?• he said.



Bishop Chris paid tribute to Bishop Timâ??s wife Fiona â?? â??a wonderful ministry partnerâ?• with a ministry of her own â?? and to their children Dan and Jessica and their families, and Jon. He also described â??a prayerful bishop who takes the ministry of prayer seriously.â?•

He closed with words from the Exhortation in the Ordinal for the ordination of a bishop, which he had come across while reading during his own congregationâ??s NCLS survey: â??You are to watch over, protect and serve the people of God, to teach and govern them, and to be hospitable. You must therefore know, and be known by them, and be a good example to all.â?•

â??Tim, you have done just that â?? â??a good example to allâ??,â?• he said. â??Thank you for your ministry as bishop, and every blessing to you and Fiona as you move into the next season of life and ministry.â?•

The service included prayers for Bishop Tim, Fiona and their family, followed by refreshments in the CP Hall.

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