**Vestrylink – March/April 2019**

St Alban’s held its 2019 AGM at Wellesley College on 24 March. This newsletter largely reflects key items from this meeting.

**Welcome**

Our wardens Heather Molloy and Philip Plimmer first formally welcomed Rev’d John Hughes and thanked him for the strong leadership he had shown since his arrival last May.

**Wardens’ Report**

The wardens jointly presented their reports, highlighting first the areas for special thanksgiving, then those areas requiring our attention. Highlighted were the growing children’s ministry and its teachers, the generosity of Wellesley College in providing our venue, the chaplaincy role of Libby Bloomfield, the work of our pastoral team, new church initiatives and the ongoing prayer groups and huddles.

Areas needing our prayers and work include extending God’s work to more young families, the patience required for the outcomes of 3DM to come to fruition and acceptance the road to good earthquake re-development results is long and slow.

**Vicar’s Report**

Rev’d John emphasised the importance of being open to change and sensitive to what we are becoming. He challenged us to focus our effort on hearing God’s small voice by seeking spiritual direction through retreat ministry, huddle groups and reading scripture as well as growing in character by supporting one another.

He left us with three simple messages. These were to;

* assure best intentions in one another (see Matthew 18)
* gossip more, but spread only good news
* be a firebreak – remembering the concept “it stops with me”.

As a final word he challenged the congregation to enjoy our journey together and have fun.

**Ngaio Street Redevelopment**

A report from Vestry outlining the Redevelopment Committee (REDC) milestones for 2018 -2019 was tabled and read out by Rev’d John. (Copies of this report can be obtained from the parish office.)

The AGM was advised the report from REDC covering the process for selecting professionals for redevelopment work had just been received and was circulated to Vestry members on 22 March. Vestry is to meet to consider this report, seek any further information required and agree a way forward.

Vestry is conscious of the interest of the parish in the progress of this work and will act as quickly as possible.

**Fundraising for Christchurch**

Denis Packer advised the meeting the total of $2,500 had been pledged on Sunday 17 March, following the Christchurch shooting.

**Financial Performance 2018**

Treasurer Denis Packer advised key items in the 2018 year related to the interregnum and appointment of the Hughes family (vicarage refurbishment, proceeds of vicarage rental, relocation costs). Costs of the vicarage refurbishment were $38,000, along with a large contribution of volunteer input to painting, curtain making and other decorating items.

**Budget 2019**

This year’s budget is a reflection of our proposed journey for 2019. The budget is a challenge, as it proposes increases to offerings and ministries. Rev’d John had just drawn our attention to the small but growing children’s ministry and indicated this growth needed strengthening with the employment of a children’s minister. He indicated he hoped the 2019 budget increase would enable this to become a reality in 2020.

**Anglican Parish of Eastbourne Trust Board (the Trust)**

John Hosegood, Trust secretary/treasurer, presented the report which outlined the Trust’s role of preserving and keeping St Alban’s assets in good shape. The Trust owns both the vicarage and the hall and manages a large portfolio of investments. As investments mature and are reinvested at today’s lower interest rates, Trust income is reducing significantly. The Trust currently provides $15,000 each year towards parish operating costs.

Last year the Trust provided $26,000 towards vicarage refurbishment costs.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Geoff Martel, who is retiring after chairing the Trust for 16 years and asked for a presentation to be made at a later date.

**Election**

A recent Synod decision has resulted in vestry and wardens being elected for a two year term, so there were no elections this year apart from a second Synod representative. Denis Packer was elected to this role.

Current Vestry members are:

Vicar’s warden Heather Molloy

People’s warden Philip Plimmer

Vestry Joy Baird, Libby Bloomfield, Patsy Jorgensen, Jeremy Lovell-Smith, Denis Packer and Mike Synnott

They are listed on the back of our pewsheet.

**Additional information – Vicarage Garden**

A draft plan of proposed work to provide quiet spaces for prayer and meditation in the vicarage garden, was included in the pewsheet earlier in March. Your comments on the proposal are welcome. Please leave these at the parish office or hand to a vestry member, before 30 April. Your views will assist vestry when making decisions about priorities and costs. (Please contact the office if you need another copy of the plan.)

Joy Baird

for Vestry