

## Vestrylink - Number 4 - June 2020

June was a busy month for St Alban's, with the postponed AGM being the most important event held.

### St Alban's Annual General Meeting (AGM)-28 June

This year the AGM involved voting for all the parish governance roles. There were 77 eligible electoral roll parishioners present. Results of the elections were as follows:

Vicar's Warden	Myles Breen (position confirmed)
People's Warden	Joy Baird
Synod Representatives	Denis Packer (Treasurer) & Joy Baird
Vestry	Libby Bloomfield Stefan Fegert Lester Greive Jeremy Lovell-Smith Stuart Mossman Mike Synnott

Tony Martin asked to give a personal message before discussion of the motions on the agenda. He asked parishioners to reflect on the difficult state of many aspects of the world today and to consider how St Alban's people could best work towards our church unity by giving collective energy to the needs of others.

It was good to see many people speaking to the motions and expressing a variety of views. The first motion was narrowly lost on a vote. Two motions were withdrawn as they were no longer relevant, with a further three having been ruled out of order by the Diocesan Chancellor as they cut across the ability of Vestry to carry out its governance role. The final motion was ruled out of order as it contravened meeting rules, by allowing new business to be brought to the AGM.

Although no motions were passed, there were important sentiments expressed in the discussion of some motions and it is anticipated the new Vestry will discuss these sentiments further in an effort to work towards unity. At the present time it is important to be able to leave some things in the past, while taking others forward towards reconciliation.

The new Vestry is planning a training day later in July, before its first business meeting.

### Further Events

June also saw the visit of Bishop Justin on 21 June, the small group discussions (People's Sermon) on 14 June and Vestry meetings on 3 June and 17 June.

### Bishop Justin's Visit - 21 June

Following the service, Bishop Justin led a korero where he expanded on the Diocesan Council's decision on the St Alban's redevelopment proposal "to take no further action at this stage, as the proposal did not communicate a unified vision focused towards the future missional opportunities of both church and hall." He indicated the Diocesan Council viewed St Alban's parish as a fragmented parish. He urged us to rise to the challenge of working to restore unity and heal relationships. This would need to be achieved to the satisfaction of the Diocesan Council, before they could support our redevelopment proposal.

## **'People's Sermon'- 14 June**

The congregation divided into 10 groups to discuss and record answers to the four questions Bishop Justin had earlier asked parishes to consider in the aftermath of our covid-19 experiences. Small groups gave opportunities for everyone to speak, with considerable wisdom being generated. The discussion has been written up, with large posters also made. These results will be provided to everyone, with another 'people's sermon' in the near future to discuss how the ideas generated can be harnessed.

In case you've forgotten, the four questions were:

- What have we learned?
- What do we want to take forward in our parish life out of this wilderness experience?
- What from our existing parish life do we want to stop?
- What do we want to change?

## **Vestry Business Meeting -3 June.**

This meeting decided on ways to improve communication in the parish.

Vestry agreed to define responsibilities for the incoming People's Warden and:

- Invite parishioners to raise issues with the People's Warden
- Provide a designated agenda item at each Vestry meeting where the People's Warden can bring these issues to Vestry's attention— whether already resolved or not.

The aim of these actions is to assure parishioners their issues are being raised at the highest governance level within the parish.

Vestry also agreed to provide regular parish updates through a combination of: inviting missional leaders to provide regular brief updates every 2-3 months at a Sunday Service, holding 3 or 6 monthly koreros and issuing a quarterly newsletter to the parish.

These initiatives will be referred to the incoming Vestry for consideration and prioritising.

## **Vestry Devotions Meeting -17 June**

Libby Bloomfield led a reflection based on the chapter 'Leadership as Intercession' taken from the book 'Strengthen the Soul of your Leadership'. As Vestry we are called to pray for people we are leading and seek God's guidance for situations involving them and to stand in God's presence with a pure heart and intercede. Libby led Vestry through a guided meditation around God's character and promises and what it means to have a pure heart. Vestry then spent time in repentance and prayer.

## **The Way Forward**

On reflection the month of June has been both busy and challenging for the parish. We've had a significant challenge from our Bishop to show we are a unified parish. We've had strong sentiments expressed and workable ideas recorded. Now the real reconciliation work, involving all of us, needs to start.

As newly elected wardens, we see the path before us to become a more united parish as difficult but achievable. With God's guidance we will help make it. happen.

Myles Breen    Vicar's Warden  
Joy Baird      People's Warden

30 June 2020