

Parish Consultation Workshop 3 29 March 2017

**Write-up from Workshop 2
Small group notes from Workshop 2**

**Facilities Needs and Criteria for evaluating scenarios
Starter List - some scenarios**

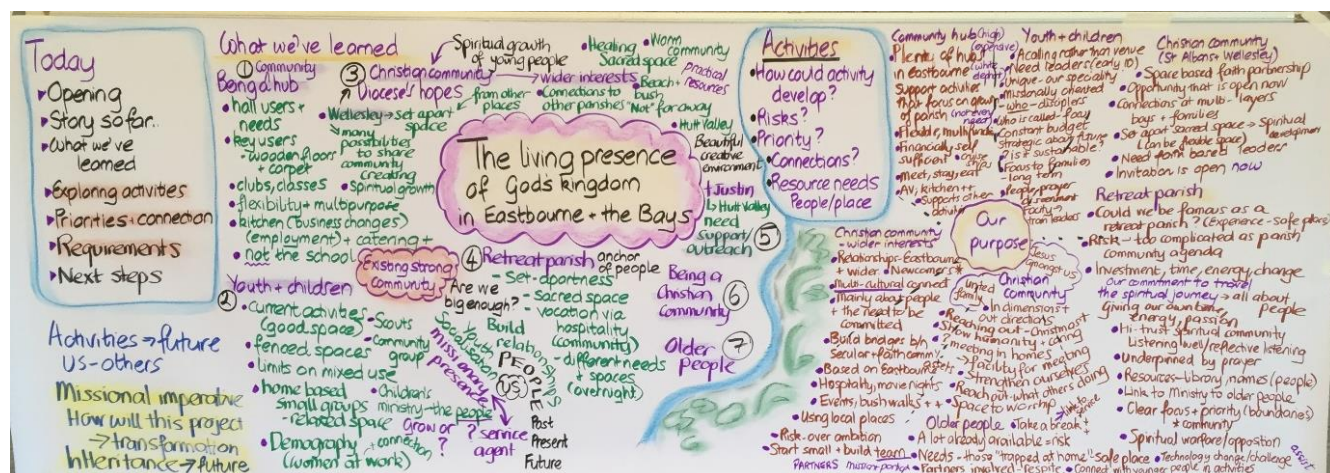
**Diagram
Listening to God**

*This information should be read in the light of the
first and second consultation booklets (26 February, 19 March)*

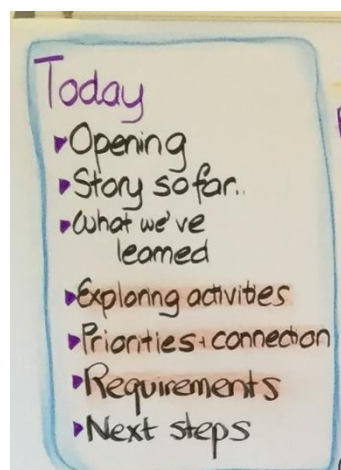
St Albans parish, Eastbourne

Consultation on Building and facilities options

Notes from 2ND CONSULTATION WORK SHOP 19 March 2017



About 38 people attended the workshop. The focus of this workshop was on the activities through which St Albans parish could express its purpose as the living presence of God's kingdom in Eastbourne and the bays; and what the resource needs of these activities would be

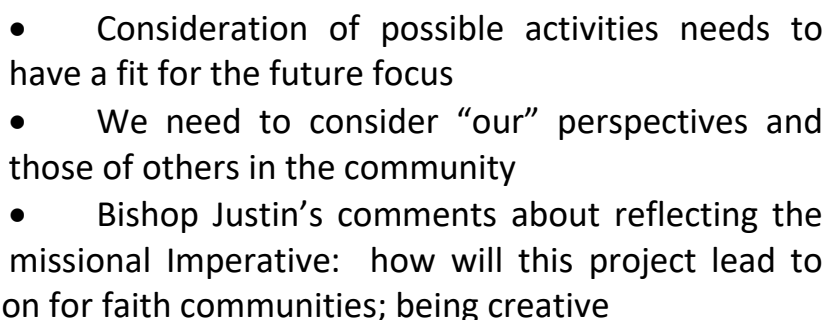


1. Today's agenda

- Opening
- Story so far
- What we've learned
- Exploring activities
- Priorities + connection
- Requirements
- Next steps

Questions were taken from those who had not attended the first workshop, and attendees offered comments on key points.

The main observations were:



- Current choices will provide an inheritance for the future – which could become an asset or a liability
- While it is tempting to want to “make a decision” the process of consultation and discussion will equip the parish to make wise choices for the future.

What we've learned

① Community Being a hub

- hall users + needs
- key users
 - wooden floors + carpet
- clubs, classes
- flexibility + multipurpose
- kitchen (business changes)
 - (employment) + catering +
- not the school

② Youth + children

- current activities (good space)
- fenced spaces
- limits on mixed use
- home based
 - small groups
 - related space
- Demography (women at work)

③ Christian community

- Diocese's hopes
- Wellesley → set apart space
 - ⇒ many possibilities to share community
 - Creating
- Spiritual growth

④ Retreat parish

- Set-apartness
- Sacred space
- vocation via hospitality (community)
- different needs + spaces (overnight)

The living presence of God's Kingdom in Eastbourne + the Bays

⑤ Existing strong community

⑥ Being a Christian community

⑦ Older people

PEOPLE

Post Present Future

SPACES

MISSIONARY PRESENCE

YOUTH RELATIONS

Are we big enough?

Build

anchor of people

Healing

Sacred space

Worm community

Practical resources

Beach + bush

Connections to other parishes

"Not" far away

Hutt Valley

Beautiful creative environment

Justin

Hutt Valley need support/outreach

How do we...

Risk

Prior

Ca

Re

Support/outreach

Older people

Post Present Future

Str

Following on from Workshop 1, members of the SEA Team had consulted and gathered information about current and future activities, talking to people in the wider diocese including Bishop Justin, and to people from the wider Eastbourne community. A full summary of the consultations and investigations formed part of the booklet handed out prior to Workshop 2.

SEA Team members & advisors summarised key points as follows:

Being a community hub

- a. Hall users + needs
- b. Key users: enjoy features such as wooden floor + carpet
- c. Clubs, classes change over time as interest and demand shifts – a range of secular interests
- d. Flexibility/multipurpose space is valued, with various suggestions for improvement on the current
- e. Commercial kitchen(business changes over time)(has a number of benefits including local employment and catering options for local and parish functions)
- f. The school has adequate facilities on its own site

Youth and children

- a. Eastbourne is a strong community already, and less likely that St Albans fills a critical community gap in general terms
- b. current activities see the hall as good space
- c. fenced spaces are important for early childhood activities; also some limits on concurrent use of spaces
- d. home-based small groups provide for relaxed space
- e. Demography is changing – eg –women at work part time may seek connections in the local community on the days they are available
- f. Children's ministry – is about the people more than place
- g. Youth socialisation
- h. A question for the parish – whether youth and family work is about missionary presence or about being a service agent
- i. Many community groups, scouts, exist in the local community with their own spaces and agendas
- j. Grow or decline (without youth and family involvement, what is the future)

Christian Community and the Wellesley connection

- a. Diocese's hopes -spiritual growth of young people
- b. For Wellesley—St Albans provides a set apart space from other places
- c. Many possibilities to share community
- d. Creating spiritual growth

Being a retreat parish

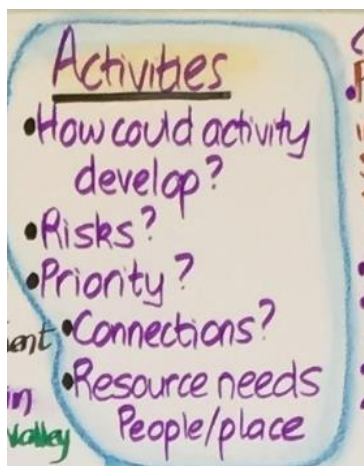
- a. set apartness
- b. sacred space
- c. Needs anchor of people who express vocation via hospitality
- d. Different needs for different sorts of spaces including overnight

Christian community and wider diocesan interests

- a. Connection to other parishes; “not far away” from Wellington, yet a different place
- b. Connection to the Hutt Valley
- c. A beautiful creative environment – beach and bush
- d. Healing sacred space
- e. Warm community
- f. Practical resources
- g. From Bishop Justin’s message: need for support and outreach in the Hutt Valley

Other activity areas

Christian community in Eastbourne, and service and support for older people



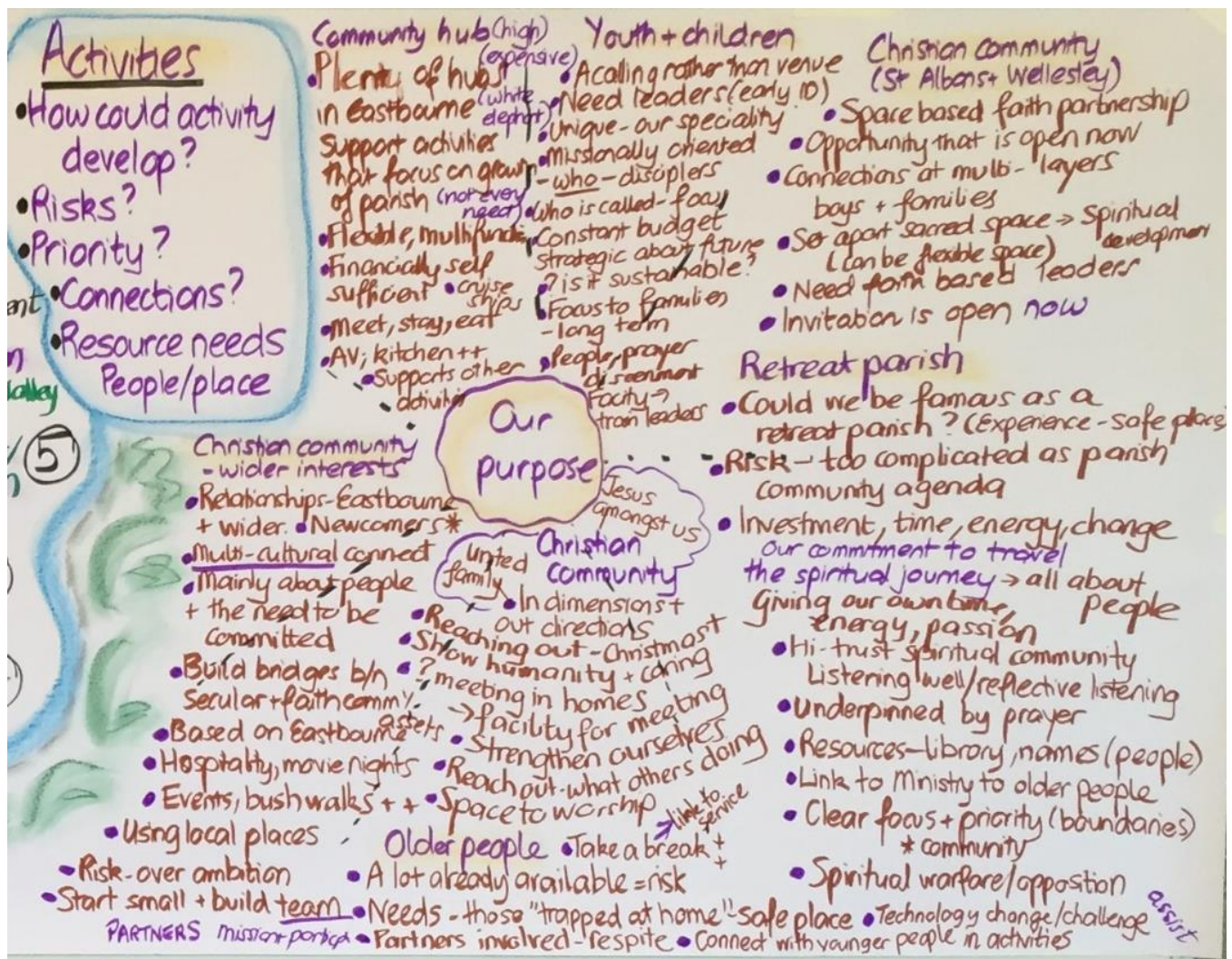
3. The options for activities which reflect our purpose

The workshop split into small groups which each considered a specific activity area in terms of:

- How could activities develop?
- Risks?
- Priority?
- Connections with other activities?
- Resource needs people/place?

Reporters from each table have been asked to provide detailed notes for the shared record.

Key points are noted in the following.



Activity 3.1 Functioning as a community hub

- There are plenty of community hubs in Eastbourne
- Support activities that support the growth of Parish
- Flexible, multifunctional space supporting activities that make the parish financially self sufficient
- Meet, stay, eat
- Facilities including AV and Kitchen ++
- Support other activities
- Cruise ships – visitors to Eastbourne, and a part in catering for these
- Risks included:
 - High priority and potential, but expensive
 - Potential white elephant if needs change, or uptake is not strong
 - Not possible to cater for every need

Activity 3.2 Initiatives for youth and children

- a. A calling rather than a venue
- b. Need leaders (early identification)
- c. Unique – our specialty
- d. Missionally oriented - focuses on the who- creating disciples
- e. Who is called – focus
- f. Needs consistent budget- be strategic about future
- g. Risk: *Is it sustainable?*
- h. Focus to families in the long term
- i. Key points are People, prayer, discernment
- j. Facility to train leaders.

Activity 3.3 Creating Christian community through Wellesley connections

- a. A space based faith partnership which presents an opportunity that is open now
- b. Connections at multi layers – boys and families; most students come from outside the Eastbourne area
- c. St Albans has been valued as set apart sacred space ---spiritual development
- d. Sacred space can potentially be flexible use space
- e. Need faith based leaders
- f. Invitation is open now to build this partnership

Activity 3.4 St Albans parish as a retreat parish/ space

- a. Could we be famous as a Retreat Parish? Experience –safe place
- b. Would call on investment, time, energy, change
- c. It is all about people, not just providing a venue space
- d. Would call on our commitment to travel the spiritual journey
- e. Giving our own time, energy, passion
- f. Would call on us to be a high trust spiritual community, skilled in listening well / reflective listening, underpinned by prayer
- g. Resources – library, names (people)
- h. Link to Ministry to Older People
- i. Would need a clear focus + priority (boundaries) +community
- j. Risk – *too complicated as Parish community agenda*
- k. *Spiritual warfare/ opposition*

Activity 3.5 Expressing Christian community – through wider interests and outreach

- a. Mainly about people and the need to be committed rather than place as such
- b. Building relationships Eastbourne and wider – other faith communities in Eastbourne, and in the wider Hutt Valley
- c. Welcoming newcomers
- d. Building multicultural connection
- e. Build bridges between secular and faith community
- f. Based on Eastbourne assets – beach and bush
- g. Using local places from cafes to pubs to pavilions
- h. Hospitality and events – from movie nights to bush walks ++
- i. Mission and participation
- j. *Risk over-ambitious*
- k. *Start small and build*

Activity 3.6 Building Christian community in Eastbourne

- a. Need to be a united family -Jesus among us
- b. In dimensions + out directions
- c. Reaching out – Christmas as an example
- d. The core is about showing humanity and caring
- e. Question marks about meeting in homes – may need facility for meeting
- f. Strengthen ourselves first
- g. Reach out – consider what others are doing in fast growing faith communities – what can we learn?
- h. Space to worship

Activity 3.7 Supporting and working with older people

- a. *Risk: A lot is already available – what would we do that is distinctive?*
- b. Take a break – existing example
- c. Link to attending a service
- d. Recognise the needs of those “trapped” at home – we provide a safe place
- e. Partners involved in caring – option of offering a form of respite care
- f. Connect with younger people in activities – opportunities to bring young and old together
- g. Technology changes / challenge – meeting point to support

Concluding comments

Those attending had found it useful to focus on activities and how the parish's purpose could be reflected in the future.

It was interesting that most of the messages were about people and community as resources, rather than specific spaces and places.

The next step will be to develop ideas about broad facilities options: what resources would St Albans need to provide for the sorts of activities identified at workshop 2.

A workshop is planned for the evening of Wednesday 29 March (details to be advised).

Key points from Bishop Justin

How can this opportunity be used to help those who do not yet know Jesus' saving love? And how will this project facilitate the theology of transformation that is central to the Gospel?

We are not here for ourselves but for those who will inherit what we leave behind. We need our church building to live beyond our immediate perceived needs and not to be burdens for future generations so I encourage you to be creative around flexible, easily repurposed options.

Fuller Small Group Notes

(from Consultation 2 Feedback groups referred to above)

Activity 3.1 Community Hub

Observation:

1. Eastbourne has lots of existing hubs already (Library, Schools, Clubrooms, Cafes, etc.).

Requirements:

1. Primary purpose of a St Albans hub would be to support St Alban's own needs.
2. Hub support activities that focus on growth of the parish would be a higher priority.
3. Non-parish use of St Albans hub's resources would be a lower priority.
4. Needs to be flexible and multifunctional.
5. Support retreats.
6. Offer hospitality (for parish-related activities).
7. Would be financially self-sufficient - ideally.
8. Not a substitute for a place of worship.
9. Specific features:
 - a. Flexible spaces with movable partitions
 - b. Kitchen
 - c. Seating
 - d. Technical aids (audio, visual, etc)
 - e. Comfortable - good heating & lighting
 - f. Stay-over/ sleeping spaces
10. Would need a team to run it.

Connections:

1. Could host an after-school faith-based club.
2. Serve as a retreat centre.
3. A place for programmes for the elderly such as 'take-a-break'.
4. Provide youth group meetings space.
5. Support activities that occur alongside worship – e.g. morning teas.
Would need to be near place of worship.

Priority:

High – seen as a facilitator for activities that could promote parish growth.

Risks:

1. Likely to cost a lot of time and money.
2. Could become a white elephant if not carefully planned and managed - lots of alternative hubs in Eastbourne already.
3. Easy to over reach ourselves by attempting to become an all-encompassing facility.

Activity 3.2 Youth and children

*Evolve or develop **

Calling is important;

witness with opportunities, plan and encourage persons to be leaders.

People have to be comfortable to attend grps.

Have to offer something that is unique ie Christian spirituality and not the same as offered by others.

What structures are needed for ideas to grow?

We need to be missional orientated

We need to train people to be disciples. This needs to come from our being and actions so people can make the connections.

Early identification of leaders

Don't hide what you are doing eg there is no doubt where Ellie sits all the time.

Need to establish good practices of hospitality

Budget for funding for young person leaders

Early detection of leaders including at 10 yrs

Exciting

*Risks **

What is the risk - it is not sustainable or may not be the answer to our mission.

Being a programme and losing sense of mission

Lost continuity of church role unless you fill it in each yr

*Priorities **

Invest in the leadership for the young

*Connections that will make it possible**

Invest in families who have been here for a long time.

*Resources**

People

Prayer and discernment

Venue to train people

Activity 3.3 Wellesley connections

A space based faith partnership which presents an opportunity that is open now – needs faith-based leaders to partner together for spiritual education and growth

Connections at multi layers – boys and families; most students come from outside the Eastbourne area. Opportunities to connect in service together (eg to local community) and opportunities to build family (eg “adopt a St Alban’s grandparent”)

St Albans has been valued as set apart sacred space ---spiritual development. We are custodians of a sacred space that enables us to educate others about sacredness and spirituality.

Sacred space can potentially be flexible use space. Creative ways of engaging with spirituality through child-friendly inter-generational events and activities

Invitation is open now to build this partnership – we can develop this partnership now, we don’t need to wait till we sort out building. eg St Alban’s parishioners are welcome at weekly chapel on Monday mornings, and Ellie and Brendan are in the midst of formulating a Memorandum of Understanding between parish and school.

Activity 3.4 Retreat parish

Priority/Question/Challenge:

Could we be famous for being a retreat parish?

How could this activity develop?

Before we become famous for offering a retreat ministry, we need to develop and equip our own people as a retreat-oriented community: we cannot invite people on a spiritual journey that we ourselves have not committed to travel.

This could involve:

- Fostering this parish as a safe place in which our feelings and spiritual journeying can be expressed honestly and safely, with no judgement
- We trust one another with our stories and sharing
- Individuals have a depth of skill (eg though pastoral care training) in deep reflective listening, so we listen well to one another
- Every parish gathering, meeting etc includes prayer, and space for silence to connect deeply with God's Holy Spirit
- We have intentional discussions about how we worship and how to best foster a contemplative spirit when we gather. (For example, there are two valid ways to enter into worship: to emphasise the sense of community and fellowship through conversation with one another as people arrive; or to emphasise the sense of reverence in God's presence through quiet and stillness as people arrive. Can it be both/and? Or does it need to be either/or?)
- Those at the committed core of the ministry give their time and energy generously (and perhaps sacrificially) to hospitality and welcome.

Risks

The parish could have a "complicated" agenda which could undermine our capacity to be a retreat parish – we could try to do too many things, not very well, and not devote enough the attention and resources to do this retreat ministry well.

We need clear boundaries and policies for this activity – need to make hard calls about venue use (eg potential clashes between community activities and retreat ministry priorities)

The ministry of hospitality and welcome becomes a burden for those most committed to it.

Spiritual warfare – we need to be aware of likely spiritual opposition to a ministry that seeks to bring light. We need to teach and share strategies to equip ourselves to counter a spirit of darkness and rebuke it/continue through it.

Connections

Potential connection with our ministry among older people: as people age they often develop a deeper sense of the contemplative. Equipping the elderly to minister to the elderly in this ministry, valuing and releasing the gifts of the elderly.

Gather a list of the relevant people resources that are part of/linked to the parish community – eg spiritual directors, those available for spiritual conversations or pastoral care - particularly for individuals coming for a “retreat day” in the parish.

Resource Needs

Our discussion focused on the people resource of praying, contemplative hospitality teams flowing from a community and worshipping congregation.

We didn’t discuss physical resources (eg particular building facilities) but the retreat parish focus group (notes in consultation booklet 2) had identified:

- Places for groups to gather of different sizes and for individual retreat needs
- Places for quiet and places for community and connection with others
- Places for individual retreat needs, such as prayer huts
- Overnight facilities for individuals and groups

We noted the potential for developing a library of books and resources about spirituality.

Activity 3.5 Wider Christian community and outreach

Overview

- Our discussion defined this in terms other Parishes, our Eastbourne community, new comers to Eastbourne, multi-cultural folk in our wider community, and especially those who visit Eastbourne or would like to.
- We kept coming back to Retreats as a key opportunity, but another table was discussing retreats.

- We need avenues to both bring people in to our parish community and ourselves going out to others outside of it.

Ideas discussed

- Hospitality, welcome and food. E.g. movie night at Wellesley, BBQs
- Pastoral care\providing meals when needed
- Beach\picnic St Albans Day
- Bush walks for different age groups, Bike rides to Pencarrow, visits to Matiu/Somes island
- Real-estate agents could include welcome information from us
- For new comers to Eastbourne, invite for coffee at Days Bay/drink at pub/ice-cream shop as Ellie did when she first arrived

Needs

- Risk of starting big and then falling over, so start small and build
- Need teams not people going solo
- Risk of not enough commitment from people

Priorities

- Getting committed teams together first.
- Focus on multi-cultural connections.

Activity 3.6 Christian Community in Eastbourne

Need to be a united family - Jesus among us. Need to strengthen networks within the church and get “our own house in order”, so we get to know each other better, love one another and support each other pastorally, so people don’t fall through the cracks. Strengthen ourselves first.

In dimensions and out directions – need to treat everyone as if they are Jesus (story from monastery). Reaching out – Christmas, other events like films, dances etc as opportunities to connect with non-church people.

The core is about showing humanity and caring – showing more humanity to others.

Hospitality to others both within and with other churches – strengthen links with churches in less well-off areas.

Question marks about meeting in homes – will they be big enough. Church needs flexible spaces to enable groups within it to meet eg lunches.

Reach out – consider what others are doing in faith communities – what can we learn? Look to other successful churches rather than re-invent the wheel – see how other communities are achieving what we want to achieve.

We need a space to worship.

Activity 3.7 Older people

Risks:

There are already a lot of organised activities for older people in Eastbourne (e.g. Women's Club, Menz Shed, Retired Persons Association, Scrabble at the Library, Bridge, Embroidery)

Priority:

Loneliness and isolation for the more frail and impaired older folks and for their carers is a growing problem

Activities:

Take A Break

This is already run on the 2nd Thursday of each month immediately following the morning service

This works well for getting a small group, including some quite frail elderly out for a group session and lunch. A growing number of these people are now also going to the Church service prior

Respite Breaks:

This concept is to give a carer a short (1 to 2 hour) break by having a person sit with the family member so the carer can go out for a while

Mixing Old & Young

Many elderly are not able to see grandchildren and great grand children due to distance. Creating opportunities for the young to interact with older people gives great pleasure - creating occasions where this can happen. e.g. choir, musical, dance or theatrical performance.

Assistance with Technology

Rapid changes in the way technology is used in the home is expected, e.g. smart refrigerators, clothing and wrist bands that monitor health, replacement of printed newspapers with digital mediums, smart cards for travel. Older people are going to need help set up and maintain these technologies.

Connections

Schools, Doctors, Carers, Pharmacy and existing Older Persons Groups can assist identify people that have a need for these sort of support activities

Resources

Warm safe spaces with appropriate seating and good access for the frail.

People who have specific carer skills (e.g. retired nurses and care givers)

Drivers with vehicles who can transport older people to activities

People with the technology skills

People with time - working with the elderly can be a relatively slow process requiring patience and empathy.

FACILITIES Needs (Requirements)

These have been extracted from section 3 of the summary of the 2nd Consultation Workshop 19 Mar 2017

| Activity area | Need that implied a facility/ building |
|---------------|---|
| 3.1 | flexible multifunctional spaces |
| | meet, stay, eat |
| | A V plus kitchen ++ |
| 3.2 | facility to train leaders |
| 3.3 | sacred space |
| 3.4 | retreat venue |
| | library resources (a place where literary resources can be centralised and accessed from) |
| 3.5 | local meeting places |
| 3.6 | meeting facility |
| | worship space |
| 3.7 | take a break (space where older people come together for a meal and socialization) |
| | technological changes (space where older people can come to learn about or get help on the use modern technology) |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| On 22 Mar SEAT also added: | |
| | Child friendly place(s) |
| | Administration office (parish admin) |

CRITERIA for Evaluating Scenarios

| | |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Cost (upfront and ongoing) |
| 2. | Flexibility (current and future use) |
| 3. | Purposes served - how well it matches the Facility Needs (above) |
| 4. | Revenue generation possibilities/financial sustainability |
| 5. | Future saleability/ rentability |
| 6. | Environmental factors (exposure to sea level rise?) |
| 7. | Maintenance - practicality and cost |
| 8. | Site amenity (appeal/ value) |
| 9. | Increases missional potential? |
| 10. | Likely user numbers satisfied |
| 11. | Potential risk |
| 12. | Outdoor space for quiet contemplation |
| 13. | Effect on memorial wall |

SCENARIOS (Starter for 10 list)

SCENARIO 1: PURPOSE BUILT NEW VENUE ON EXISTING SITE THAT INCLUDES:

- a. FLEXIBLE MULTI FUNCTIONAL SPACES (MOVEABLE PARTITIONS, ...)
- b. DEDICATED CHAPEL: SMALL - HOUSING x PEOPLE. CAN BE OPENED UP TO LARGE SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE LARGE AUDIENCE
- c. OFFICE SPACE

SCENARIO 2: BUILD A SACRED SPACE/PLACE ON LAND ADJACENT TO WELLESLEY COLLEGE (Land owned by Wellesley)

- a. USE SOME WELLESLEY FACILITIES (could include multifunctional space and vicarage accommodation)
- b. SELL NGAIO STREET LAND.

SCENARIO 3: SELL VICARAGE SITE AND USE PROCEEDS TO:

- a. BUILD ACCOMODATION FOR VICAR AT REAR OF HALL
- b. RESTORE CHURCH
- c. STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE HALL:
- d. RETAIN ADMIN AND KITCHEN (BOTH CONNECTED TO EXISTING HALL)
- e. HALL IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE MORE FLEXIBLE SPACES/MOVEABLE PARTITIONING

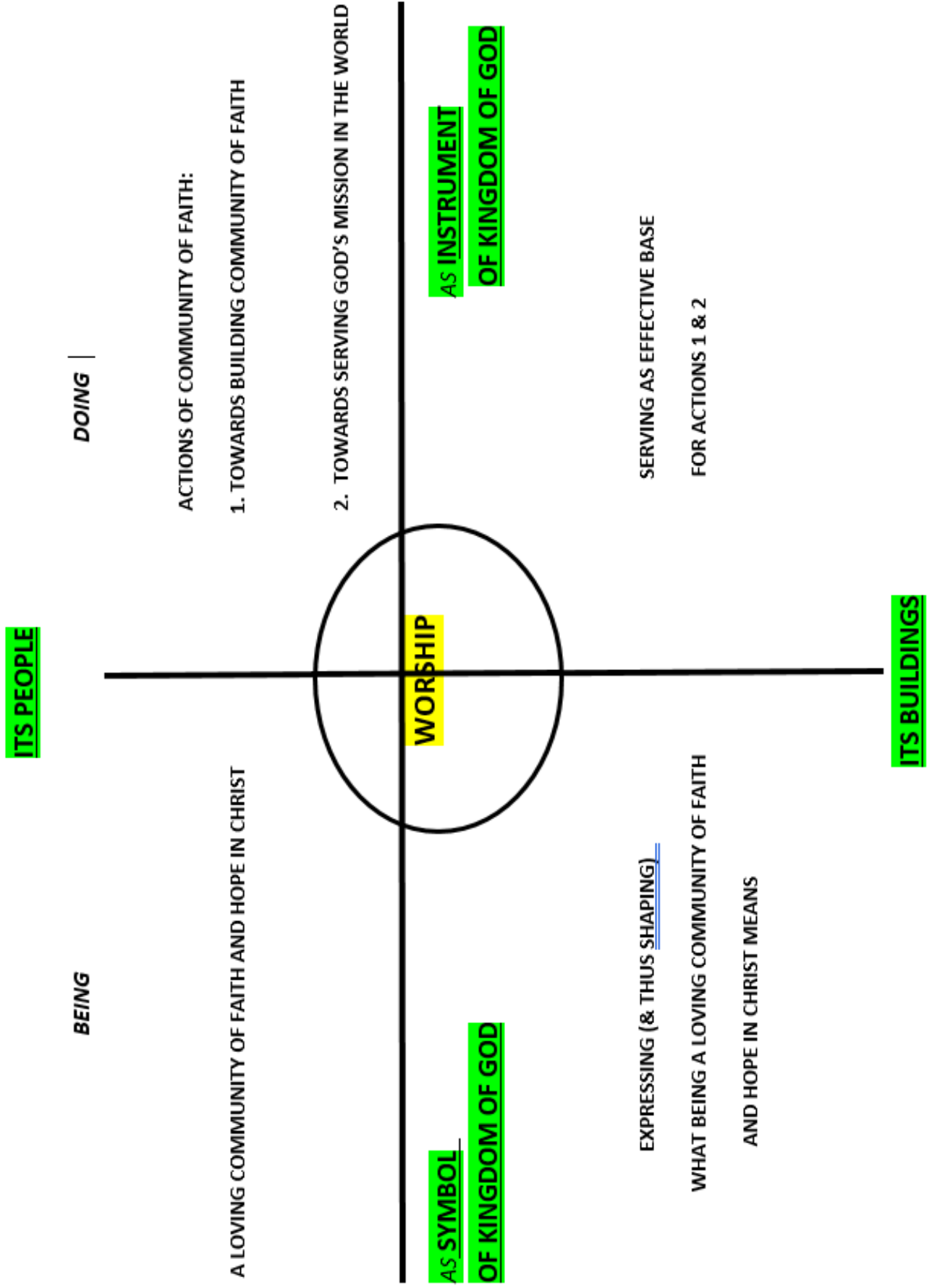
SCENARIO 4: JOIN EXISTING CHURCH TO HALL TO PROVIDE

- a. COVERED ACCESS TO CHURCH AND TO HALL
- b. EXTRA ROOMS /SPACES
COULD BE AT EITHER END OF CHURCH
- c. RETAIN AND STRENGTHEN CHURCH
- d. RETAIN AND STRENGTHEN HALL AND IMPROVE
- e. OPTION TO REDEVELOP VICARAGE SITE e.g APARTMENTS, WITH ONE FOR VICARAGE FAMILY.

SCENARIO 5: MODERNISE CHURCH AND

(INCLUDE VICARAGE AND HALL IN PLANS AS IN ANY OF ABOVE OR OTHER ALTERNATIVES)

REBUILDING ST ALBAN'S



How do we listen to, and know, what the Lord is saying to us?

We are told that the children of God know the voice of God. Trying to know what God is saying to us, however, is not something that we all feel very confident about. From my experience, the best way to discern the voice of God, is to know the character of God. The more we have spent time learning and being with God, the more able we can recognise when God is speaking into our lives. Here are a few guides for us as we embark on this time of discerning what God is saying to us:

It is easier to hear from Jesus when you are following Jesus and walking closely where Jesus walks

A lot of Jesus' teaching with his disciples happened on the road together, living out the Kingdom of God, not just talking about it. Jesus didn't take his disciples off to a lonely place and explain the kingdom to them from scripture for three years. Jesus lived the kingdom life and taught the disciples about this life (including the way it brings understanding to scripture) in very practical, getting hands dirty kind of ways. The same applies to us.

For example, if we want to know how to enliven God's kingdom for young families in Eastbourne, spending time with our young families, inviting them to dinner, joining in the all age activity on a Sunday morning, are all opportunities where you might be more likely to hear Jesus speaking.

Or if you feel excited about the way our parish has supported St Matthew's Taita in the past, why not go to Taita and walk around the community and in that walk pray to Jesus and ask him to speak to you about His heart for this community and how we could further bless it. There was a craze a little while ago to wear wrist bands inscribed with W.W.J.D. What would Jesus do? Walk in Eastbourne. Come and sit in our church garden. Ask that Question at the same time as getting your hands dirty in community kingdom life and see what happens.

It is easier to hear if we are regularly praying and putting ourselves in a position where we could hear if God chose to speak

Our worlds are very noisy. It is hard to hear if there is no space for a new sound to be played. If we have regular morning and evening times where we come and sit at Jesus' feet, bringing him our hopes and fears, then we are more likely to hear Jesus speaking into our hearts than if we do not regularly do so. In fact, it is often exactly when we come into the regular patterns of prayer that we begin to realise just how much the silence of God is appropriate and that God is not ours to grasp at or pull upon or claim to know or understand.

Those whose lives are shaped by deep patterns of prayer are often the humblest in speaking about what they feel Jesus is saying. That is because we learn to see the echo of ourselves in our leaning into God, we touch our own ego in ways that others might not as easily; we come to think more of God and less of ourselves and therefore have a more patient and gentle conviction of God's call when it is discerned.

We can and should expect generous prophetic blessings from the Holy Spirit

The gifts of prophecy are clearly given to the Body of Christ to support and encourage us in our life and ministry. Prophecy can come in the form of words or pictures or dreams. Because the gift of prophecy is given for the building up of the Body of Christ, it operates safely in cultures of shared discernment and accountability.

For example, someone may receive a picture or a word, this is known as a *revelation*, and then that person shares it with the wider body. The wider body then *interpret* the revelation. Then in their structures of wisdom and eldership, that interpretation is discerned for *application*. So the prophetic operates in three phases: revelation, interpretation and application. Those phases involve the whole of the body of Christ and we submit to each other in that process. If you feel as though you have received a revelation, then it is appropriate to come and share that with our church elders who will then guide the interpretation and application.

When we ask a new question of discernment, we do so standing on the gifts and wisdom of our past

In our Anglican tradition, we speak of having four legs of solidity to hold us: scripture, tradition, reason and experience. New revelations, and insights, and calls from God can be tested and affirmed by the resonance that they have with those four solid pillars. This means that we have a solid foundation on which to build the future. God is always re-creating the world, but God is always God and we have a solid base in which we collectively perceive the character of God and therefore the voice of God's creative life-giving Spirit calling newness forth from us.

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