

## Q & A Three

### April 2017

**Q *What was the outcome of Consultation Workshop 3?***

A The well attended third consultation workshop came up with three distinct scenarios, on which they have asked the St Alban's Earthquake Team (SEAT) to do further work. These three scenarios are – restoration on the current site, a new development on a (hypothetical) central location, and a development on a Wellesley linked site.

**Q *So what will happen next?***

A SEAT is in the process of developing criteria and a weighting system with which to undertake the evaluation. SEAT membership is to be increased for this next step, by the addition of parishioners with appropriate skills or interests. Diocesan Manager Nick Young (who attended workshop three), along with Diocesan Property Manager Rob Moonlight will be working with SEAT to provide high level costings for all three scenarios.

Once this work is finalised, a further workshop will be held.

**Q *When will we receive more detailed information from the third workshop?***

A Denise Church has prepared her report from the third workshop. This will be added to the website and copies in booklet form are now available.

This was Denise Church's third and last workshop for us, as she is not available to facilitate future workshops.

The Diocesan Manager, Nick Young will work closely with us to provide future facilitation support for St Alban's.

**Q *What is the timeline for reaching a solution?***

A The building solution process remains on the track, as set out in the project roadmap included in the information pack provided for the first workshop. This indicated a fourth workshop in mid May, with more detailed assessments in late May. Dates for detailed costings, short-listing and discussion within the diocese were indicated as 'tbc'. (To be confirmed). This

situation still applies. The timing of reaching a final solution depends to some extent on whether clear and unanimous support is focused around one of the scenarios.

**Q *Do we know yet what it will all cost?***

A Not yet. Evaluation of the three scenarios should give some idea of costs, although only at a very, very high level. With the three very different scenarios being evaluated, costs will vary a great deal and would include items such as costs of earthquake strengthening, rebuilding, potential property purchase, potential ongoing lease, new building or renovation on a new site and potential property sale.

**Q *Who makes the final decision and how is that decision to be made?***

A The final building solution decision will be made by parishioners on the electoral roll, which is currently in the final stage of being updated. It would be useful to check your name is correctly included.

**Q *What effect will Rev'd Ellie's departure have on the St Alban's building solution decision?***

A Rev'd Ellie has been able to share her vision and wisdom in the three workshops held to date. Neither her departure, nor the arrival of a new vicar to St Alban's, should influence the timing or the final building solution decision. This decision is made by the regular worshippers of the parish and should reflect their vision for the future of St Alban's.

**Q *When is Rev'd Ellie leaving?***

A Rev'd Ellie will be ordained Bishop at the cathedral on Friday 2 June. Her last Sunday as Vicar of our parish will be May 28<sup>th</sup>. During this service we will have a liturgy of farewell from our pastoral connection as vicar and parishioners.

Vestry has met with Bishop Justin and agreed that Ellie and her family will remain living in the Vicarage for a period agreed until the end of the year. The Diocese will rent the vicarage from the parish for this purpose for this period. Should further accommodation be required by the parish prior to the end of the year, the Diocese will work with the parish to sort out appropriate arrangements.

**Q *Will parishioners be able to attend the ordination?***

A Absolutely! Rev'd Ellie will be presented by our parish and by Wellesley College to be ordained as a Bishop. We therefore have a very special part to play in the service. We will work to co-ordinate transport and logistical arrangements for our parishioners over the coming weeks.

**Q *Will there be a farewell for Rev'd Ellie?***

A There will be, although at this stage planning the details continues as a 'work in progress'. Once arrangements have been finalised, information will be provided to everyone.

**Q *Who will be leading St Alban's during the interregnum?***

A We are all well aware of the uniqueness of our transitional situation as a parish and the increasing role of chaplaincy at Wellesley College. Therefore, considerable care is being taken to ensure the right support is being put in place. Our Vestry, Wardens and Bishop Justin have been in detailed conversations and discernment about creating an interim ministry team. It is envisaged that this interim ministry team would be established immediately following Rev's Ellie's departure and be in place until the end of the year.

**Q *How will a new vicar for St Alban's be selected?***

A A Vicar is selected by our team of parish nominators in partnership with the Diocesan Board of Nomination. The increasing role of chaplaincy at Wellesley College is also an important part of these conversations and will therefore include appropriate consultation with Wellesley College.

It may be helpful here to note the distinction that is made between a Vicar and a Priest in Charge. For the selection of a Vicar there has to be a call sent out to the wider church and an interview and discernment process completed. The appointment of a Priest in Charge, or Interim Priest in Charge, is made by the Bishop in consultation with the parish leadership and is often made for set periods at times of transition within parishes.

As we look into the future, it is worth noting that although many parishes employ a vicar model of ministry, there are increasing examples of more creative team ministry models of leadership. Our recent facilitation workshops indicated the huge priority of investing in developing different types of people, teams and leaders. The vicar model has many strengths, but it also has many weaknesses. If our parish recognises a need to develop a range of leadership

and people teams, it may be that we need a corresponding range of skill sets and gifts to enliven that vision, which is beyond the realistic capacity of one primary person. These are the types of considerations that the nominators and the Board of Nomination will discuss together.

**Q *Who are our nominators?***

A St Alban's has four nominators, appointed annually by Vestry. Nominators appointed in 2016 are Peter Baldock, Libby Bloomfield, Jutta Chisholm and Philip Plimmer. Once a vicar has indicated that they will no longer be continuing in their role, the nominators cannot be changed at a subsequent AGM until a new appointment has been made. Therefore, these four nominators will be re-appointed by our incoming vestry after the 2017 AGM.

**Q *How long is this process expected to take?***

A The first priority is establishing an interim ministry team, which we hope to communicate in early May. Once that has been established, the nominators will work with the Diocesan Board of Nomination on an appropriate time-scale to begin the process of seeking a new vicar. Parish reflection and review is often part of the process of discerning a new vicar. The uniqueness of our situation, that is, being in the midst of a far more significant reflection and review about our future mission and ministry, is well understood by those involved. Therefore, the process, and its time-frame, will reflect our situation and our needs.

**Q *What happens to the vicarage when Rev'd Ellie is no longer vicar of St Alban's?***

A As indicated above, our vestry have agreed with Bishop Justin that Rev'd Ellie and her family will remain living in the vicarage for a period until the end of the year, with the Diocese renting the vicarage from the parish. This period will give the Sanderson family stability for their children whilst they discern the most appropriate location for their residence as Assistant Bishop. This time-period will also coincide with St Alban's interim team ministry, for which no further housing is envisaged as necessary. This will also provide a space for the continuing deliberations about our property and facilities solutions, which quite rightly need to consider the future use of the vicarage within their scope.

